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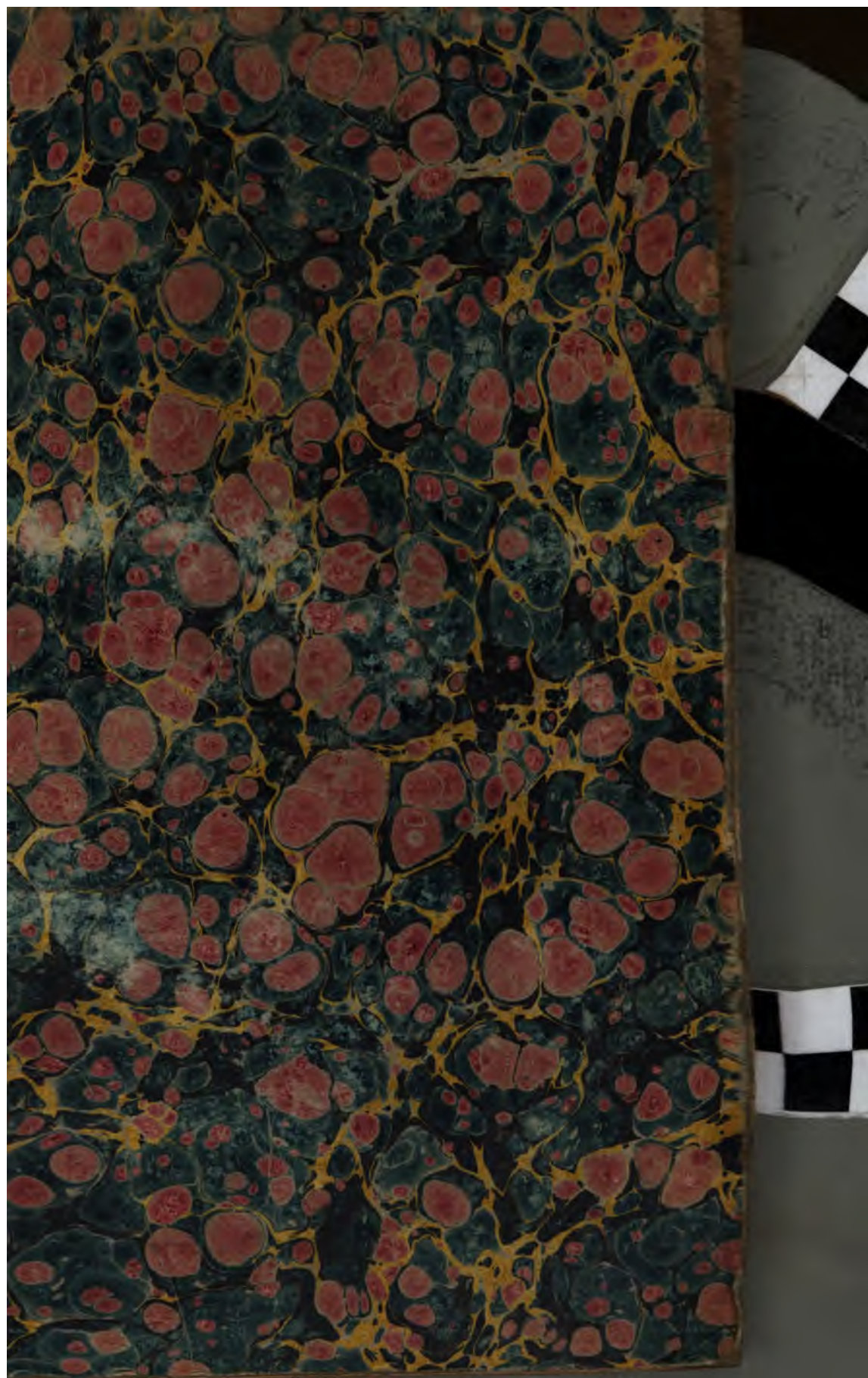
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THE
ILIAD OF HOMER,

THE
FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD CANTOS:

TRANSLATED
WITH A VIEW TO RENDER A LITERAL INTERPRETATION, AS NEAR AS MAY BE,
IN A METRICAL VERSION MOST CONFORMABLE, THOUGH
NOT IDENTICAL IN CONSTRUCTION, WITH THE
ORIGINAL GREEK HEXAMETER.

"That they may read who never read before,
And they who read before, now read the more."

LONDON:
FRANCIS AND JOHN RIVINGTON,
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1850.

Price Five Shillings.



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SPOTTISWOODES and SHAW,
New-street-Square.

TO THE READER.

THE Iliad, so universally adopted as the foundation of a Classical education, has no need of either preface or apology :

“ Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis
Tempus eget.”

But as a general observation it may be well to remind the reader that the manners and usages therein described are those of the barbarous ages antecedent above a thousand years to the æra of Christianity; when Heathenism, with all its preposterous superstitions and practical absurdities, was the religion of the so-called civilised nations. They were addicted to predatory warfare, familiarised with the coarsest personalities, exacted ransom, or put to death their captives, and made slaves and concubines of their wives and daughters. The occupation of monarchs, and princes, and princesses in servile and menial offices, was also in accordance with the primitive simplicity of those remote ages. The Iliad contains an interesting and animated description of the manners and usages of that period, and, to repeat the words of Aristotle, “breathes the soul of poetry.” The merit of the translation, whatever it may be, will of course depend upon the judgment and taste of the readers who have competent learning to understand it.

THE I L I A D.

CANTO I.

THE wrath of the valiant Achilles of Pelëus the son and of Thetis,
Aid me, O Muse, to relate ; how, pregnant with woes to the Grecians,
It sent to the regions of Pluto the souls untimely of warriors
Numberless, them to the dogs it abandoned unburied for carnage,
To vultures and all birds of prey ; so Jove and the fates had decreed it,
From the time and the prime cause of woe when first contended together
Atrides the wide-ruling king and the valiant and noble Achilles.
Who set the two heroes at variance, what God to contention incited ?
Latona's and Jove's divine son ; for he with the king much offended,
A pestilence raised in the camp, and the people contagiously perished ; 10
And why, but for Chryses the priest, by the king Agamemnon dishonoured ?
A suppliant he came to the camp where the ships of the Grecians were stationed,
His daughter a captive to ransom ; and choice were the gifts he presented ;
His hands with the chaplets were filled from the fane of Apollo collected,
And the sceptre of burnish'd gold ; to his aid he implored the Achæans,
But chiefly the two Atrides, the rulers elect of the people ;

“ O monarchs ! from Atræus descended, and all ye respectable warriors,
“ May the gods of Olympus befriend ye, that soon o’er the city of Priam
“ Your banners victorious may wave, and yourselves may in safety return home ;
“ But to me my lost daughter restore, and the gifts which I proffer accepting 20
“ Your piety so may you prove, and respect for far-darting Apollo.”
This he said ; and the chiefs all around consentingly heard and applauded,
That grace should be shown to the priest, and his ransoming gifts be accepted ;
Not so the king Agamemnon, but discontented and angry
Abruptly the priest he dismissed, these menacing words superadding :
“ Not again let me find you, old man, nor again let me hear of your coming ;
“ If loitering here in our ships, whether now or hereafter returning,
“ Your chaplets of no use may prove nor the sceptre you bring, to protect you ;
“ The maiden I will not let go, till from youth to old age she approaches ;
“ In my palace at Argos till then, and her captive condition fulfilling ; 30
“ The loom her employment by day, and at night to my bed to attend me ;
“ But away now, begone while you may, and no further provoke me to anger.”
He said ; and with fear and confusion the priest from his presence retreated ;
Silent he went and alone to the shore of the loud-sounding ocean,
There in his heartfelt grief on deep thoughts pondered and various,
And thus breathed a fervent prayer to Apollo, Jove’s son by Latona :
“ O thou who with silver bow splendid, to Chrysa thy sovereign protection
“ Hast deigned to extend, and to Cilla, and bravely o’er Tenedos reignest,
“ Smintheus, give ear to my prayer ; and if e’er in thy temple attending
“ Not in vain I have served and have oft sacrificially burnt on thine altar 40
“ The fat limbs of bullocks and goats, now hear, and my prayer accomplish ;
“ Struck by thy vengeful darts may the Greeks for my tears make atonement.”
Thus he prayed, and his prayer not unheard up to Phœbus Apollo ascended.

Down from the heights of Olympus with indignation he hastened,
Armed with his silver bow, and his quivers replete with his arrows ;
The quivers they hung from his shoulders, and clattered with clang that resounded
From the silver bow as he moved. Like a cloud in the night he alighted
In view of the camp on a mount, and from thence shot swiftly an arrow ;
The silver bow clanged in recoil, and away rushed hurtling the arrow :
First at the cattle he aimed, and the mules and the dogs fall attainted ; 50
The men thro' the camp surveying he next with his death-dealing arrows
Struck ; then the funeral piles with the heaps of the slain were incumbered.
Nine whole days enduring in ceaseless contagion they perished ;
On the tenth, by Achilles exhorted the chiefs were in council assembled,
For this to the warrior's mind had white-armed Juno suggested,
For to pity and grief she was moved at the sight of the perishing Grecians ;
When therefore in council assembled they all sat expectant and silent,
From his seat uprose and thus spoke the swift-footed warrior Achilles ;
“ Atrides, what best to be done is, methinks, with all speed re-embarking
“ Home to return, if indeed we may hope yet to find any refuge 60
“ From the wide devastating plague to the perils of war superadded.
“ But come, let us call for some prophet or well-informed priest to our council,
“ Or expounder of dreams peradventure (for dreams are from Jove's inspiration),
“ The cause to explain of our woes and the vengeance of Phœbus Apollo ;
“ Perhaps for some unredeemed vow, or a hecatomb due and withholden,
“ Or with bullocks, it may be, and rams, and with incense of sweet-smelling odours
“ Appeased, he may cease from his wrath, and the pestilence thus be averted.”
He said, and his seat he resumed ; uprose then the high-priest and augur
Calchas, Thestor's son, of expounders of dreams the most famous :
He knew all things present and past, and the future he wisely predicted. 70

To Ilium he came with the ships of the Achæans, in rank a commander,
So much for his wisdom preferred, by the favour of Phœbus Apollo ;
And these were the words that he spoke, not unprepared for discussion : —

“ O Achilles, from Jove by descent, you command me, Apollo permitting,
“ The cause to explain of his wrath and the plague by his vengeance inflicted ;
“ And therefore I will explain it ; but first your convention requiring
“ And promise, lest ill should befall, of your personal aid and protection ;
“ For surely much wrath I foresee, and in him above all most outrageous,
“ Who reigns o’er the Argive host, and to whom all the Greeks pay obedience ;
“ For a king, so it needs, is most potent with one his inferior contending ; so
“ And though he may hide for a time and suppress or disguise his resentment,
“ He will in his breast still retain it, at length peradventure to break forth
“ Vindictive and unrestrained ; then say, will you aid and protect me ? ”

To whom in reply thus answered the swift-footed warrior Achilles : —

“ Whate’er you from augury learn say at once and with courage proclaim it ;
“ For never, by Jove-born Apollo I swear, to whose service devoted
“ You, Calchas, his mysteries learn, and interpret his will to the people,
“ As long as the vital air breathing I live, and have sense, sight, or motion,
“ Shall hand be uplifted against you by whomsoever of all men
“ In the camp or the ships of the Greeks, not himself Agamemnon excepted, 90
“ Whose boast and glory it is to be first in command of our army.”

By this reassurance encouraged, thus spoke the pre-eminent prophet : —

“ Neither for vows unredeemed, nor for hecatombs due and withholden,
“ But in favour of Chryses the priest by the King Agamemnon dishonoured ;
“ For his daughter he would not restore, and the price of her ransom rejected ;
“ For this has Apollo his vengeance inflicted, and will yet inflict it
“ Unappeased in his wrathful displeasure, and moved, as it seems, to resentment,

“ Till Atrides again to her father the black-eyed maiden shall render
“ Without ransom or price ; and moreover a hecatomb send for atonement
“ To Chrysa ; his wrath may then cease, and the plague he inflicts be averted.” 100
He said, and his seat he resumed ; then rose with impatient emotion
Atrides the hero of Argos, the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
Brimful of ire ; his knit brows and the frown of his lowering aspect
Scowled o’er the ominous glare that flashed from his fiery eyeballs ;
At Calchas he sternly looked, as he spoke with imperative accent :—
“ Prophet of evil, for never aught good has your prophecy boded,
“ Always the worst to predict, was to you most apt and familiar,
“ But good predictions alike both in word and in action repugnant ;
“ From augury now you proclaim, in the presence of all here assembled,
“ That me they have only to blame for the woes they sustain from Apollo’s 110
“ Vengeance ; because I restore not my captive, the daughter of Chryses,
“ The gifts for her ransom rejecting ; so much do I wish to retain her
“ My inmate of house and home, in my palace at Argos hereafter ;
“ For not Clytemnestra herself, my legitimate wife from a virgin,
“ Excels her in person or mind, or in temper and industry likewise ;
“ But to end the dispute even now I agree to relinquish the maiden,
“ If so best ; for I hold above all things the popular welfare expedient ;
“ But you with your gifts come prepared to afford me the price of her ransom ;
“ For it suits not that I of the chiefs should alone without prize or reward be ;
“ The prize which I rightfully claim transferred, as you see, to go elsewhere.” 120
He said ; and thus answering spoke the swift-footed warrior Achilles :—
“ Atrides, greatest in glory, in avarice basest of mortals,
“ For how can the Greeks make good what in gifts you require as a ransom ?
“ Gifts we have none to bestow, and we know of no treasure in common ;

“ The spoils that by conquest we gained have been since divided amongst us ;
“ And these to collect and reclaim would be inconsistent with justice :
“ But you now the black-eyed maid to her father restore, and hereafter
“ Threefold and fourfold gifts you shall have for an ample requital,
“ Whene’er we achieve, Jove willing, the capture of Troy and its treasures.”

This he said ; and to him thus replied the wide-ruling King Agamemnon :— 130

“ Not so, though the boldest of men, be too confident, godlike Achilles,
“ Nor hope my assent to surprise, or with plausible words to persuade me ;
“ While you of your prize keep possession, shall I, do you think, unrewarded
“ Tamely sit down and be still, and the black-eyed maiden relinquish ?
“ Indeed if the brave-hearted Greeks bring the requisite gifts as a ransom,
“ Assured of their value no less, I object not to that satisfaction ;
“ If not so, my right I assert, and will forcibly take for requital
“ Whether yours or of Ajax the prize, or of noble Ulysses the guerdon,
“ And bear it away, the resentment of him so deprived not regarding.

“ But of this I dismiss further parley for consultation in future ; 140

“ Now let us choose out a ship, and afloat let it be for equipment,
“ The benches with rowers man, and a hecatomb then for atonement
“ Prepare and embark with all speed, and the black-eyed damsel moreover ;
“ Also to this expedition some chief shall attend as commander —

“ Idomeneus, Ajax, Ulysses, or whomsoever it pleases,
“ Even you Pelides, the bravest and most terrific of all men ;
“ And so may your prayers and oblations appease the far-darting Apollo.”

Him then in scorn surveying, thus answered the valiant Achilles : —

“ O impudent, shame be it to you, and most avaricious of mortals ;
“ What brave-hearted Greek can endure to your insolent rule to be subject, 150
“ Whether here or on mission to go, or the foe in the field to encounter !

“ Not in my own cause I came, and for injuries done or imagined,
“ With the well-armed Trojans to fight ; for to me they were never offensive,
“ Never from me or from mine have driven the oxen and horses,
“ Nor City of Phthia invaded, its glebe lands wasted and pastures,
“ Nor the corn and the fruit carried off ; for long is the way and far distant,
“ And mountains and forests between, and a wide-flowing sea intervening ;
“ For you it was, impudent King, in your sequel we came at your bidding,
“ A dog-eyed king as you are, for the King Menelaus dishonoured,
“ Your revenge on the Trojans to wreak ; but of this you are reckless, and
care not. 160

“ Now in your unrestrained anger you threaten to seize on my guerdon,
“ For the which I have laboured and toiled, and to me by the Greeks was awarded ;
“ Unequal at all times to yours is the prize to my valour conceded
“ In the share that befalls of the spoil that from Troy and its warriors we conquer ;
“ In the front of the battle my station, to me it belongs by hard fighting
“ To labour and toil for the prize, and whatever my guerdon awarded
“ With modesty fain I receive it ; but you from all perils exempted
“ The choicest and largest reward by prerogative take and precedence.
“ But away now to Phthia I'll go ; for I deem it consistently better
“ Home to return with my ships, than here without due honour rated 170
“ In the camp to remain ; and your gain will but small be of glory or
treasure.”

He said ; and to him thus replied the wide-ruling King Agamemnon : —

“ Begone if you will, and with ill luck your threatening announcement accomplish,
“ In sooth it but little concerns me ; for others as brave and as valiant
“ With honour remain to attend me, and Jove above all my protector.
“ Of the kings who by Jove's favour reign you were always to me the most hateful,

“ Ever prone to contention and strife, and no pleasure you know but in fighting,
“ If in valour superiorly gifted, you owe to the gods that distinction.
“ Now home if you will with your ships, and with all your companions returning,
“ There o’er your Myrmidons reign, for I want not your aid and assistance, 180
“ And reckon not your anger ; but this will I furthermore menace and threaten,
“ As Apollo from me claims my captive, the black-eyed daughter of Chryses,
“ Embarked in my own ship I’ll send her, with gallant associates for escort
“ Attended ; but yours then the captive I’ll presently take for requital,
“ Brisëis ; myself from your tent will take her, a proof to afford you
“ How greatly in power I excel ; and to others a warning in future
“ Not in strife against me to contend, nor with me to compete as my equals.”
He said ; and Pelides was wroth, and his heart with an agony laboured
Of inward and deep vexation, his thoughts at the moment distracting
Whether with drawn sword brandished to break through the crowd interposing 190
And strike with precipitate onslaught the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
Or whether his anger to check and compose his tumultuous passion ;
He, while in mind and in heart the perplexing resolve he debated,
Half drew his sword from the scabbard ; when suddenly came from Olympus
Minerva the goddess of wisdom, for white-arm’d Juno had sent her,
Protectress of both the heroes, and equally tending their welfare ;
Close to Pelides she stood, and back by the hair she withheld him :
He turned and the goddess he saw, unseen by all others and formless ;
With amazement Achilles beheld, for he knew at the moment the goddess
Pallas Minerva there standing : his eyes full of terrible fury 200
He raised, of surprise expressive, and thus at the instant addressed her : —
“ Why hither, O daughter of Jove all-powerful, come you, and wherefore ?
“ Is it the insolent bearing of King Agamemnon to witness ?

“ But this I affirm, and ere-long will destiny prove its fulfilment,

“ The reckless and insolent pride of that man will drive him to madness.”

He said; and to him thus the goddess, the blue-eyed Minerva, responded: —

“ Your wrath to appease, if it may be, I came from Olympus descending,

“ For not unobserved from above was by white-armed Juno your conflict;

“ Her care she extends to you both, to the welfare of either attentive;

“ But come, your fierce anger refrain, and draw not your sword from its
scabbard;

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“ Suffice it in words to contend, for unhappily that will and must be;

“ But this will I also affirm, as will destiny prove its fulfilment,

“ Threefold requital hereafter, and compensation abundant

“ For the wrongs you sustain you shall have; so now be appeased and persuaded.”

To her in reply thus answered the swift-footed warrior Achilles: —

“ O goddess I fain will and must, as behoves, to your words be obedient,

“ Tho' indignant I feel beyond bearing the thought of my honour insulted;

“ But obedience is no less a duty than claim to protection and favour.”

So saying, with ponderous hand his sword in the depth of the scabbard

To its broad silver hilt he repressed, the divine injunction obeying.

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Again to the heights of Olympus the blue-eyed Minerva departed,

The celestial abodes to regain of Jove and of all the Immortals;

But the wrath of the valiant Achilles was unsuppressed and unyielding,

And angrily thus he accosted the wide-ruling King Agamemnon: —

“ You drunkard, with eyes of a dog and the heart of a stag in your bosom;

“ For not to the battle-field ever, like other brave Grecians advancing,

“ Or in ambush to waylay the foe, and by stratagem join in the combat,

“ You ventured or dared; for as death such achievement you feared and avoided;

“ Far better you deem it and safer in strife and contention prevailing,

“ To despoil of his guerdon some chief to your lawless aggression unyielding, 230
“ A people-devouring king ; and un-Grecian the subjects you govern,
“ Or this were your last of offences and last exhibition of outrage ;
“ But this do I now declare, and affirm with an oath the most solemn,
“ For by this very sceptre I swear, which never again the renewal
“ Of leaves and of branches produced since the day from its trunk it was parted,
“ Nor ever shall henceforth produce, by the axe of the woodcutter severed,
“ And stripped of its bark and foliage, but now by the Greeks had in honour,
“ The emblem esteemed of command in the hands of kings and of judges,
“ Of all-powerful Jove the vicegerents ; and what then more solemn to swear by ?
“ In vain shall the Greeks, to their sorrow, the absence regret of Achilles, 240
“ Assuredly all ; and yourself in your mind be afflicted and harassed,
“ When Hector with death-dealing rage your dispirited troops shall discomfit ;
“ For you will not aid and protect them, in grief and despair then regretting
“ That ever the best and most valiant of all the Greek chiefs you dishonoured.”

So saying, Pelides his sceptre with bright gold studded and blazoned
Threw as in scorn on the ground, and his seat he resumed, and was silent.
Apart sat Atrides, indignant and sullen ; but presently Nestor
Uprose, of the Pylians the king, and for wisdom and eloquence famous ;
The words as they fell from his tongue harmoniously flowed and persuasive.
So many the years he had numbered, that two generations he counted 250
Of men who had all passed away, of his earlier years the companions ;
And now with the third generation surviving he governed at Pylos ;
And thus the assembly addressing, his prudent discourse he delivered : —

“ O heavens, what fatal affliction impends o’er the sons of Achaia !
“ Cause of rejoicing to Priam, no doubt, and to Priam’s descendants ;
“ Well may the Trojans exult, and so indeed would they in triumph,



- “ To hear if they could these contentions and ebullitions of anger
 “ In the camp among those who are chiefs in council no less than in combat ;
 “ But come, be persuaded by me, for both are assuredly younger ;
 “ Full many have been my associates in valour and glory superior, 260
 “ And they never lightly esteemed me nor undervalued my counsel ;
 “ Their equals in these days we see not, nor ever methinks shall again see :
 “ Peirithōus namely, and Dryas the brave shepherd-king of the people,
 “ Exadion likewise, and Cœneus, and, bravest of men, Polyphemus ;
 “ And Theseus with goat-skin shield, an invincible warrior and godlike ;
 “ The bravest they all were esteemed of the past generation of heroes,
 “ The bravest they were beyond doubt, and in war with the brave they
 contended :
 “ The Centaurs who came from the mountains by them were in battle defeated.
 “ I then from Pylos had gone in confederate warfare to join them,
 “ To a foreign and far-distant land with them in their sequel proceeding, 270
 “ In perils and toils their associate ; and most assuredly no one
 “ In these more degenerate days is in valour and prowess their equal :
 “ Still my advice they respected and were by my counsel persuaded ;
 “ But now be you also persuaded, for so it indeed is expedient.
 “ Atrides, though first in command, presume not the damsel to capture,
 “ But leave to the warrior his prize by the Greeks to his valour awarded ;
 “ And you, Pelides, forbear with the king to contend in defiance
 “ Persisting, for no one like him is supremely with honour invested,
 “ The sceptre of majesty bearing, by favour of Jove so distinguished.
 “ If you in your valour excel, from a goddess your parentage claiming, 280
 “ He in his power prevails, for his reign is more widely extended.
 “ Atrides, your anger suppress, and dismiss from your mind all resentment ;

“ And let me Achilles implore to abstain from further excitement ;

“ For him as a fortress we hold, and the champion and chief of our army.”

This he said ; and to him thus answered the wide-ruling King Agamemnon :—

“ What you advise, aged Seer, is consistent with reason and prudence,

“ But nought will for that man suffice but to set himself up above others,

“ Aspiring his rule to impose, and all claims but his own overbearing ;

“ But impose and presume as he may, there are those he will find his opponents.

“ If in valour he greatly excel, by the gift of the gods so distinguished, 290

“ Is it therefore befitting in broils, and in strife and contention to show it ?”

Him, his discourse interrupting, thus answered the valiant Achilles :—

“ Unworthy indeed should I be and of small reputation accounted,

“ If to your sovereign will I in servile obedience submitted ;

“ To others your orders impart, but to me to prescribe and enjoin them

“ Presume not ; for this I affirm, that I never will heed or obey them ;

“ And this too I also affirm, and you in your mind may revolve it,

“ That not for the black-eyed damsel in conflict with you or another

“ With my hands will I fight to retain what the Greeks have bestowed for my
guerdon :

“ But of other and all things besides that my ship contains of my treasure, 300

“ Neither you nor shall any one else remove aught without my approbation ;

“ The experiment venture who dare shall soon know and feel my resentment :

“ Pierced by my lance he shall fall, and his black blood stream for his rashness.”

Thus to contend they persisted with hostile and mutual reproaches.

At length as the council broke up, they all to their quarters departed ;

Pelides away to his tent where his ships on the sea-shore were stationed,

With him Menetiades went and other brave chiefs his companions.

And now by command of Atrides a swift-sailing vessel was floated,

The benches with rowers manned, and in haste they embarked for Apollo
A hecatomb ; presently came the black-eyed daughter of Chryses, 310
Ulysses, as chief of the escort, the beautiful maiden conducting ;
Together they all then embarked, and the ships o'er the high sea proceeded.

Atrides meantime gave command a lustration to make through the army,
And into the wide-flowing sea to project the ablutions and refuse.
A hecatomb then they prepared and sacrifice made to Apollo
Of bullocks and goats on the shore of the barren intractable ocean ;
And in fumes to the skies as it rose the sweet-smelling odour ascended.
Thus were the Greeks employed through the camp ; but the King Agamemnon
Still with resentment glowed, and with lust for revenge on Achilles.
Therefore the two heralds calling, Talthybius the one, and the other 320
Eurybates, messengers both and officials in daily attendance.

“ Proceed,” he exclaimed, “ forthwith to the tent of Pelides Achilles,
“ And take by the hand and away bring the fair-looking maiden Briseïs ;
“ But in this if opposed you shall be and resisted, then will I myself go
“ With numbers attended ; and worse then and harder to bear will he find it.”

This he said, and the heralds dismissed, some menacing words superadding.
Unwillingly they to the shore of the wave-rolling ocean proceeded,
And soon to the Myrmidon ships and the tent for Achilles erected
They came, and himself there beheld at the side of his tent, in a black ship
Reclining ; and surely no pleasure it gave to Achilles to see them. 330
Impressed with submissive respect in the presence of majesty standing
They were loth to advance or to speak, nor the object explained of their coming ;
But this by Achilles was noticed, and fully aware he addressed them : —

“ Come, heralds, advance, you have leave, ye reporters of Jove and of monarchs,
“ For surely not you do I blame, nor your office, but King Agamemnon,

“ Who sends you a seizure to make of the fair-looking maiden, Brisëis :

“ But go now, my noble Patroclus, and bring from her chamber the maiden,

“ In charge to the heralds to give ; for to this do I call them to witness

“ Before all the gods of Olympus and all upon earth living mortals,

“ Before that implacable king beyond all, that if ever hereafter 340

“ The need shall be felt of my succour, to ward off death and destruction

“ From others ; for what but destruction forebode his extravagant ravings ?

“ He knows not with provident forethought, the past and the present reviewing,

“ In battle the Greeks to array, or in ward of their ships to protect them.”

This he said, and Patroclus withdrew ; but soon with Brisëis returning,

He led by the hand and presented, and gave her in charge to the heralds ;

Away then the two heralds went with the maid to the ships of the Achæans :

Unwilling in sooth went the maid ; but with tears were the eyes of Achilles

Suffused, and away to a seat from his friends and companions removing,

Apart there he moodily sat, and in silence looked o’er the ocean ; 350

With hands then upraised and extended he called on his mother the goddess : —

“ O mother, since me you have borne, a short-lived unfortunate mortal,

“ With honour at least should Olympus and all the Immortals regard me,

“ The thunderer Jove above all ; but to me they have no honour granted.

“ Assuredly me, to my sorrow, the wide-ruling King Agamemnon

“ Grossly dishonoured by seizing with violent hands on my guerdon.”

So saying he wept ; but his prayer by his mother the goddess was heeded,

Far away in the depths of the ocean by old father Neptune reposing ;

From the sea as a cloud she arose, her path through the waters dividing,

And while yet his tears were falling, before him she sat, to his vision 360

Revealed ; and his outstretched hands as she tenderly pressed thus addressed him :

“ Dear child, why in tears do I find you, for what this excessive affliction ?

“ Come, tell me, and nothing conceal, that we both may take counsel together.”

To her with a deep-heaved sigh replied the swift-footed Achilles :—

- “ You know it, for all things you know, and need not a vain repetition :
“ In the war with Eëtion waged, when the city of Thebez* we captured,
“ The spoil that in pillage we took was collected and brought here together,
“ And this to divide and distribute the Greeks were in council assembled.
“ Atrides as first in command selected Chrysëis for guerdon ;
“ But soon appeared Chryses her father, the priest of far-darting Apollo : 370
“ To the ships he came of the Achæans with brazen targets† accoutred ;
“ His captive daughter to ransom, and choice were the gifts he presented ;
“ His hands with the chaplets were filled from the fane of Apollo collected,
“ And the sceptre of burnished gold ; to his aid he implored the Achæans,
“ But chiefly the two Atrides, the rulers elect of the people.
“ The chiefs, as they all stood round, consentingly heard and applauded,
“ That grace should be shown to the priest and his ransoming gifts be accepted.
“ Not so the King Agamemnon ; but discontented and angry
“ Abruptly the priest he dismissed and some menacing words superadded.
“ Then dismayed and in fear the old man withdrew, but Apollo 380
“ Gave ear to his fervent prayer, for his priest he benignly protected.
“ Therefore with death-dealing arrows the Greeks he attacked, and they perished,
“ Incessantly slaughtered in heaps ; through the wide-spread camp of the Achæans
“ The pestilence fearfully raged, till at length in council assembled
“ We learned from the principal augur the cause of Apollo’s resentment.
“ Myself was the first to advise to appease the divine indignation ;

* Thebez. See Judges, ix. 50.

† The armour so called. See 1 Samuel, xvii. 6. : “ And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.”

" But this to Atrides was cause of much anger ; he suddenly uprose
 " And menacing language he used and his menaces now has accomplished.
 " The daughter of Chryses embarked in a swift-sailing ship the Achæans
 " To Chrysa conduct o'er the sea, with a tribute besides for Apollo. 390
 " Anon to my tent came the heralds by King Agamemnon commissioned,
 " And bore off the fair Brisëis, the prize for my guerdon awarded.
 " But you, dear mother and goddess, afford to your son your assistance,
 " And try what entreaty can do with all-powerful Jove in Olympus,
 " If ever by word or by deed you have well deserved his affection ;
 " For oft I have heard you relate, and not without reason exulting,
 " How of old in the heights of Olympus, the cloud-gathering Saturn evicted *,
 " You alone in the strife of the immortals to Jove were adherent and faithful ;
 " Confederate the others to bind him in chains, the Saturnian kingdom
 " Contesting together, even Juno, and Neptune, and Pallas Minerva : 400
 " But you, goddess, came to his aid and availed from his chains to release him ;
 " And then how the hundred-hand giant you called to the heights of Olympus,
 " Briareus his name with the immortals, but called upon earth among mortals
 " Ægeon, resistless his strength and his father he greatly exceeded.
 " By the side of Saturnian Jove he sat down, in his glory exulting ;
 " With terror the immortals beheld, nor more to their chains they resorted.
 " Of this now remind him, and spare not his knees to embrace, and entreat him

* Evicted. According to the Greek mythology, the Fates had decreed the reign of Saturn to continue until he should be evicted by his own son. To prevent such a catastrophe he devoured his children at the birth ; but at the birth of Jupiter, Rhea, his mother, in order to save him alive, presented Saturn with a stone in a bag, which he immediately swallowed, supposing it to be the infant. Afterwards, when Jupiter had grown up, Saturn was by him evicted, as the Fates had decreed. — HESIOD, *Theog.* 464.

" His aid to the Trojans to grant, and to cause them in battle victorious
 " To drive back the Greeks to their ships for refuge from havoc and slaughter,
 " That so they may learn to their cost what sort of a king overrules them, 410
 " And so may Atrides experience that not with impunity surely
 " He dares in the freaks of his anger so valiant a chief to dishonour."

To him thus the goddess replied, while her tears were in sympathy falling: —
 " My son, sure in sorrow I reared you by destiny marked for affliction ;
 " Would that unharmed and unvexed you had stayed in the ship that conveyed you !
 " So brief is your mortal career, so abridged your short date of existence ;
 " And you the most wretched of all men, so short-lived and also afflicted :
 " Oft as of this I have thought, I may well say I reared you in sorrow ;
 " But now to entreat and persuade, if it may be, the King of the Immortals
 " I'll go, to Olympus above and its snow-covered summits ascending ; 420
 " But you in your swift-sailing ship with the Greeks your companions remaining,
 " Compose yourself there and be still, and abstain altogether from warfare.
 " Jove to the depths of the ocean but yesterday came, to a banquet
 " The Æthiopians among, and by all the celestials attended :
 " On the twelfth day again they return to the snow-covered heights of Olympus ;
 " And then to the palace of Jove, on its brazen foundation erected,
 " Proceeding, his knees I will clasp, and I hope shall avail to persuade him."

This she said, and departed ; but he was in mind still grievously angry,
 For his thoughts on the black-eyed damsel, his well-girt consort, were doating,
 From his tent carried off by the heralds. But now had Ulysses at Chrysa 430
 Arrived, with the fair maid in charge and the hecatomb sent for Apollo.
 Soon as the port they had reached and the deep-watered harbour had entered,
 They hastened to take down the mast, and arrange in the black ship the tackling ;
 The mast they removed to the hold that was under the bench of the rowers,

Hard working ; and then with their oars conducted the ship to its station,
Anchor cast, and secure made the rudder, and tied up the rigging.

Now when the ship they had quitted and all on the shore were collected,
The hecatomb they on the beach made ready for Phœbus Apollo ;
And forth from the ship proceeded the black-eyed maiden Chryseïs.
To the altar where Chryses was waiting Ulysses the fair maid conducted ; 440
And there to her father's own hands restored her, and thus he addressed him : —

“ Chryses, to you I was sent by the wide-ruling king Agamemnon,
“ Your daughter to safely restore, and a hecatomb bring for atonement
“ In behalf of the Greeks, to appease the far-darting Phœbus Apollo,
“ Whose wrath has of late inflicted a terrible plague on the Grecians.”

So saying, his daughter he placed in his hands ; he greatly rejoicing
Received and embraced his dear child. But they with the hecatomb busied
At the side of the well-built altar, prepared it in order convenient ;
And brought after washing of hands the unleavened cakes made of barley.
Chryses with joy beheld, and thus did he pray to Apollo : — 450

“ O thou who, with silver bow splendid, to Chrysa thy sovereign protection
“ Hast deigned to extend and to Cilla, and bravely o'er Tenedos reignest,
“ If ever my prayer thou hast heard, and my vows accepted and granted,
“ To the honour indeed of thy priest, but sorely the Grecians afflicting,
“ Hear and vouchsafe of the prayer which at this time I make the fulfilment ;
“ Avert even now from the Greeks the calamitous plague that afflicts them.”

Thus did he pray ; and his prayer up to Phœbus Apollo ascended.
The Greeks when in prayer they had joined and the unleavened barley-cakes
offered,

The heads of the cattle drew back, and slaughtered and skinned them adroitly ;
Next the dissected haunches with layers of fat overspreading 460

In duplicate cauls they arranged, and upon them the pieces and entrails ;
With billets the priest began burning, and poured o'er the whole a libation
Of wine, while the boys stood round with five-pronged forks in attendance :
Soon as the haunches were burnt, having tasted the pieces and entrails,
The joints and the inside parts they upheld upon spits to be roasted ;
And these being carefully dressed were at once set aside for the banquet.

Thus having ended their labour they all took seats at the tables,
The plenteous repast to partake, for in appetite none were deficient.
But soon as with eating and drinking they all had their appetite sated,
Round went the boys with the goblets with pure wine copiously flowing, 470
And these to the banqueting guests to each in succession presented.
Convivially thus the whole day did the Greeks in carousing and singing
Continue with joyful acclaim to appease the far-darting Apollo ;
They praised him in hymns and songs, nor displeased was Apollo to hear it.
At length when the sun went down and the deep shades of night were approaching,
To the ships they together returned near the prows of their vessels to slumber ;

But soon as with rose-coloured finger Aurora developed the daylight,
They rose without further delay to return to the Grecian encampment ;
For a favouring breeze at the dawn had been sent by Apollo to speed them.
The mast was again then erected, the sails unfurled and extended ; 480
And swift, as the breeze filled the canvas, the prow o'er the high sea proceeded ;
The keel as it ploughed through the waves from the rush of the waters resounded,
Leaving behind the white track, and pursued its career on the ocean.

But when to the camp they had come, where the ships were collectively stationed,
Direct for the shore then steering they hauled down the sails and they landed ;
High on the sands drew the ship, and secured it with props and with holders,
And all disembarked and dispersed to the tents or the ships as they listed.

But still with his wrath unappeased in his own ship was sullenly sitting
The brave son of Peleus and Thetis, the swift-footed warrior Achilles ;
For neither the chiefs would he join when together assembled in council, 490
Nor ever to battle went out ; but his heart with resentment consuming
There he remained, in his anger yet longing for strife and for battle.

But now as the days were proceeding, the twelfth had arrived in succession ;
Again the celestial train had returned to the heights of Olympus,
And Jove, supreme above all ; of her son not unmindful, the goddess
Thetis with feet white as silver arose from the waves of the ocean,
At the earliest dawn of the day, and above to Olympus ascended ;
The Saturnian thunderer there in the cloud-capped heights of Olympus
Apart from the other immortals she found on a summit reclining ;
Before him she silently sat, and his knees with her left hand embracing, 500
Coaxingly touched with her right hand and patted the chin of the monarch,
And then in persuasive tone and with suppliant words thus addressed him : —

“ If ever my dutiful efforts, dear father, to serve and to please you
“ Availed your approval to gain, now hear this my prayer and perform it ;
“ Honour afford to my son, the most wretched and short-lived of mortals,
“ Now by the king Agamemnon injuriously wronged and insulted ;
“ With violent hands he has borne off the prize to Achilles awarded ;
“ But you in your wisdom supreme, O Jove, for my son’s honour grant it,
“ That back to their ships for shelter the Trojans may drive the Achæans ;
“ The cost of dishonouring Achilles to teach them and make them to feel it.” 510

This she said, and no answer returned the cloud-gathering King of Olympus ;
Silent he sat in deep thought ; but Thetis more closely embracing
And clasping his knees with fervour, thus pressingly urged her entreaty : —

“ Explicitly speak your resolve, that you will or you will not, for surely

“ No timid reserve can you have, but at once let me know to my sorrow
 “ That I less than other Immortals have claim to your favour and honour.”

She said ; and a deep sigh heaving, the cloud-gathering monarch responded : —

“ A perilous deed you advise ; for in that I should irritate Juno,
 “ Beyond all measure, and much would she vex me with bitter reproaches ;
 “ Already among the Immortals her discontent she expresses, 520
 “ And says even now that in battle I too much have favoured the Trojans.
 “ But go, and return as you came lest Juno should notice your coming ;
 “ To me leave the further concern to promote and accomplish your bidding :
 “ I assent, as you see, with a nod which well may confidence give you ;
 “ For this when from me it proceeds is among the Immortals a signal
 “ Infallible, never revoked, and quite beyond all revocation ;
 “ Whate’er with a nod I approve is sure to be done and accomplished.”

He said ; and with dignified nod his dark brows inclined in accordance ;
 Gracefully flowed o’er his shoulders the circumambient ringlets
 As he sat majestic ; and wide through its extent Olympus was shaken. 530

Thus, after consultation they parted ; the light-footed Thetis
 Down to the ocean again from the heights of Olympus descended ;
 Jove to his palace returned. But the Gods had together assembled,
 Each from his palace arriving their father to greet, not his coming
 At distance awaiting, but all in respectful array stood before him.

Jove on his high-raised throne took his seat ; but incessantly Juno
 (For she knew of the audience he gave and his personal confabulation
 With Thetis, the silver-feet daughter of Neptune the King of the Ocean)
 Accosted her Saturnine spouse with sarcastic and bitter reproaches : —

“ With whom of the Immortals, deceiver, has been your late confabulation ? 540
 “ From me always purposely absent, you hold your deliberate counsels

“Clandestine and secret from me, and whate’er you intend and resolve on
“From me you reserve and conceal, nor admit of my participation.”

To her then the august father of Gods and of men thus responded: —

“Juno, deceive not your mind with the vain hope of previously knowing

“My counsels, for that were beyond even conjugal rights to insist on;

“Of all that without indiscretion is matter for public discussion

“There are none who with you can compete in claiming the communication;

“But of that which I deem it expedient apart from the Gods to consider,

“Forbear your inquiries to make, nor expect to be fully instructed.” 550

To him, then, Juno the full-eyed majestic goddess thus answered: —

“Stern and implacable Jove, how strange is the speech you have uttered!

“Never have I so inquired, nor such information expected;

“Free, and by me undisturbed, you consult and resolve at your pleasure:

“But that which I do apprehend and suspect, is your present seduction

“By Thetis, the silver-feet daughter of Neptune the King of the Ocean;

“Early she came to your presence, embracing your knees and entreating;

“And much I suspect that you promised to favour and honour Achilles

“By aiding the Trojans to vanquish and drive back the Greeks to their shipping.

She said, and to her in reply the cloud-gathering monarch thus answered: — 560

“Infatuate, always suspecting, and I too incur your suspicion,

“But never aught good will it do you, but rather impel me, with reason,

“To prize you the less in affection; and that were still harder to suffer;

“But in fact if it be even so, it of course is my sovereign pleasure:

“But you now sit down and be still, nor attempt by your words to persuade me;

“For in strife and contention persisting, not all the Immortals against me

“Shall avail if to them you appeal, from the weight of my hand to protect you.”

He said; and with fear it was heard by the full-eyed dignified Juno;

In silence her seat she resumed, in her heart her resentment concealing;
 A sigh through the palace of Jove from the other Immortals resounded. 570
 Presently thus spoke Vulcan, the prince of mechanics and artists,
 In his zeal to console with kind words the white-armed Juno, his mother:—

“ Disastrous, indeed, will it be, and a grievance beyond toleration,
 “ If for the sake of mortals you thus engage in contention,
 “ You Immortals with anger excited; no more would the banquet its pleasures
 “ Convivial and joyful afford, for the worst is predominant always.
 “ But now I advise, my dear mother, though hard the condition, to bear it,
 “ And yield to my father obedience, that so he may feel no resentment,
 “ And all without further disturbance may cheerfully join at the banquet;
 “ For if, in his wrath unappeased, Jove wills to upset and demolish 580
 “ The solid foundation of all things, for Jove is above all superior.
 “ But you now to soothe him incline, and forbear from all further reproaches;
 “ And he then will cease from his anger, and all become tranquil and happy.”

So saying, a two-handled chalice with nectar he filled, and advancing,
 In the hands of his mother respectfully placed it, and thus he addressed her:—

“ Courage, dear mother, and bear it with patience, though inwardly grieving,
 “ Lest far worse should befall, and I see my dear mother insulted
 “ By main force; for nothing could I do, though vexed in my heart and afflicted,
 “ To help her in contest with Jove, who above all is greatly superior.
 “ Well I remember when tempted unwisely to aid his opponents 590
 “ He seized me at once by the foot, and down from the heights of Olympus
 “ He threw me; the whole day long I was falling; at length about sunset
 “ In Lemnos I came to the ground, but inanimate nearly, and breathless;
 “ The Sinthians there as I fell to my aid came, for they were the natives.”

He said; and was heard with a smile by the white-armed Juno, the Goddess;

Smiling she took from her son the two-handled chalice presented;
He to the Gods all around then served, from the right hand beginning,
The sweet-flowing nectar, to each from the two-handled chalice outpouring:
Peals then of laughter arose, and were kept up by all the Immortals,
In the palace of Jove to see Vulcan the cupbearer's office performing. 600

Thus in convivial delight till the sun went down they continued
At banquet; for want they had none, nor ungratified wish for regaling;
Nor of music and song was there want; the inspiriting harp of Apollo
And voices melodious they had of the Muses alternately singing.

At length when the sun had gone down and his brilliancy sunk in the ocean
The jovial assembly broke up and the Gods to repose or to slumber
Dispersed, as to each it seemed good, to their several mansions returning,
Skilfully built long since by the limping and clubfooted Vulcan.

But Jove to his palace retired, where amid the high stars of Olympus
To his couch he was wont to repair when to rest or to slumber inclining; 610
There he reposed, and beside him the golden-throned Juno his consort.

END OF CANTO I.

CANTO II.

THUS the celestials above, and on earth the belligerent warriors
Slept through the night; but with Jove there was no inclination to slumber,
Deeply his thoughts were engaged how Achilles to favour and honour,
And drive back the Greeks to their ships, by the Trojans defeated in battle:
This to his provident mind seemed the best and most easy expedient,
A phantom delusive to send in a dream to the King Agamemnon;
And thus his commands to the phantom in swift-winged words he imparted:—

“ Go phantom delusive and vain, to the swift-sailing ships of the Achæans,
“ And then in the midst of the camp to the tent of the King Agamemnon,
“ This admonition to give, and impress while he sleeps on his senses; 10
“ Exhort him to arm with all speed the comely-haired sons of Achaia,
“ All; for that now is the time he may capture the fortified city
“ Of Troy; the celestials above no longer its safety protecting;
“ They by persuasion of Juno their former pretensions resigning,
“ Regard not; and final defeat even now impends o’er the Trojans.”

He said; and the phantom departed, the royal injunction obeying;
Soon in its swift-winged flight, at the ships it arrived of the Achæans,
And there in the midst of the camp at the tent of the King Agamemnon:
Him in his tent it perceived in a deep sleep soundly reposing;
Near it advanced to his pillow, the figure of Nestor assuming, 20
The eldest of all the Greek chiefs and most honoured by King Agamemnon;
In figure the same and in gesture, the phantom thus spoke to Atrides:—

“ Do you sleep, son of Atreus the brave, the renowned and invincible warrior ?
“ The chief should not sleep through the night who presides o’er the popular
welfare,

“ On whom public safety depends, and whose cares are so many and various ;

“ But now to my counsel attend, for Jove from above sends the message,

“ Your condition, by you tho’ unseen, with concern and with pity regarding ;

“ Summon to arm with all speed the comely-haired sons of Achaia

“ All ; for it now is the time you may capture the fortified city

“ Of Troy ; the celestials above no longer its safety protecting ; 30

“ They by persuasion of Juno their former pretensions resigning

“ Regard not ; and final defeat even now impends o’er the Trojans ;

“ By Jove so ordained ; but take heed, and let not the heavenly suggestion

“ Carelessly pass from your mind when again you rise from reposing.”

So saying the phantom departed ; but he from his slumber awaking
In mind perplexed, thought deeply the scheme how best to accomplish,
For on that day he fully expected the city of Priam to capture,
Fool that he was, and unconscious of all that by Jove was intended :
Still in delusion persisting he could but increase the afflictions
Of Trojans and Grecians alike from the havoc and slaughter of battle. 40
Excited he rose, and fancied he still heard the ambient murmur
Of the message divine while hastening to draw on a soft supple vestment
Costly and new, and moreover his regal mantle assuming,
Next on his feet he adjusted the sandals with ligatures fastened,
Then from his shoulders suspended the silver-hilt glittering falchion,
Hastily took up his sceptre, the heritage-gift of the Immortals,
And went thus equipt to the ships of the brass-accoutred Achæans.
The rose-fingered goddess Aurora the heights of Olympus ascended,

Announcing to Jove and the Immortals the radiant return of the daylight :

Atrides commanded the heralds his orders as usual attending 50

To instantly go through the camp and summon the Greeks to a council ;

The heralds their office performed, and the Greeks were as promptly assembled.

Atrides then, having first with the aged Nestor consulted

In the ship of the Pylian sage, commanded them all to be seated,

And thus to the chiefs assembled in council his speech he delivered : —

“ My friends, hear the dream I have had, by a vision divinely instructed ;

“ In my tent when at night I reposed, and in slumber obliviously rested,

“ It came in the personal semblance and habit and gesture of Nestor :

“ Near to my pillow it stood, and thus in plain words it addressed me : —

“ ‘ Do you sleep, son of Atreus the brave, the renowned and invincible warrior ?

“ ‘ The chief should not sleep through the night who presides o’er the popular
welfare, 61

“ ‘ On whom public safety depends, and whose cares are so many and various ;

“ ‘ Now to my counsel attend, for Jove from above sends the message,

“ ‘ Your condition, by you tho’ unseen, with concern and with pity regarding ;

“ ‘ Summon to arm with all speed the comely-haired sons of Achaia,

“ ‘ All ; for it now is the time you may capture the fortified city

“ ‘ Of Troy, the celestials above no longer its safety protecting ;

“ ‘ They by persuasion of Juno their former pretensions resigning

“ ‘ Regard not ; and final defeat even now impends o’er the Trojans ;

“ ‘ By Jove so ordained ; but take heed, and remember.’ So saying, away
fled

“ The vision ; and presently then I uprose from slumber awaking. 71

“ But come, let us arm if it may be the sons of the Grecians for battle ;

“ But first an expedient I’ll try if the Fates do indeed so ordain it,

“ And bid them all home to return in their ships from the contest retreating,
“ And you shall your best efforts use to detain them, exhort, and encourage.”

He said, and his seat he resumed : then rose the magnanimous Nestor,
The range of whose royal domain o'er the sea-girt Pylos extended,
And thus to the chiefs assembled his prudent discourse he delivered : —

“ My friends, compeers, and commanders, in council renowned as in combat,
“ The report of this wonderful dream, had it been by another related, 80
“ A fiction had well been deemed unworthy our serious attention :
“ But none can the voucher disclaim of the chief in command of our army ;
“ So now let us arm if it may be the sons of the Grecians for battle.”

He said, and removed from his place, the debate in the council concluding ;
And thus the assembly of warriors with acclamation departed :
First went the sceptered kings, and presently all the crowd after
Sallied impetuously forth like so many bees at a swarming ;
From the cleft of some rock they emerge in succession incessant and endless,
In clusters around they fly, now here, now there, as they gather,
Heaps upon heaps descend and the spring flowers cover and darken ; 90
So from the ships and tents did the multitudinous warriors
Advance on the wide sea-shore where in common the people resorted,
There into groups collecting ; and presently Fame was among them,
Celestial reporter of Jove. Meantime, while all were in movement,
Tumultuous, crowding together, the earth seemed to groan with the burthen
Of the congregate mass ere they settled ; they shouted aloud, and on all sides
The outcry was heard of nine heralds who hastened to make proclamation,
Messengers known and revered as reporters of Jove and of monarchs.
At length when the tumult subsided, and ceasing from noise and from clamour
The people had quietly settled, then forth came King Agamemnon 100
With the regal sceptre in hand, to his forefathers given by Vulcan ;

Vulcan at first had made it for Saturnine Jove in Olympus ;
Jove upon Hermes conferred it, the slayer of Argus the giant ;
From Hermes to Pelops it came, for his cavalry famous and horses ;
Then in succession from Pelops to Atreus the king of the people ;
From Atreus again to Thyestes the prize was bequeathed and descended,
And so from Thyestes at last to the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
Whose reign over Argos extends and the shores and islands adjacent.
This regal sceptre upholding, thus spoke the King Agamemnon : —

“ My friends, brother warriors, and chiefs, of Mars the brave children and
servants,

“ Saturnian Jove has perplexed and in doubt full of danger involved me ; 111

“ Promise he formerly gave that of Priam’s city and fortress

“ The capture and spoil we should have and afterwards safely return home ;

“ But now evil counsel devising, he bids me with speed re-embarking

“ Home to return, in respect that so many already have perished :

“ Omnipotent Jove it appears has determined on this as expedient ;

“ His powerful arm we all know has the greatest of cities subverted,

“ And may yet subvert hereafter, for all things to him are submitted.

“ Inglorious indeed will it be and to all posterity shameful,

“ That the Greeks shall abruptly return with their congregate forces retreating

“ From an unsuccessful campaign, and unable the fight to continue 121

“ With foes so inferior in number ; but what else can now be expected ?

“ Of Greeks and of Trojans methinks to compute the comparative numbers,

“ A numerical list of them both being taken and fairly reported,

“ The Trojans by head we might count and singly as many as may be,

“ But the Greeks we might reckon by tens ; and then were each decade at banquet

“ Attended by one single Trojan to pour out the wine and to serve them,

“ Of the Greeks we should find more decades than single Trojans to serve them ;

" By so much the Greeks of our army exceed methinks and outnumber
 " The Trojans who dwell in the city : but these, to assist them in warfare, 130
 " From the cities and states all around a confederate band have collected,
 " To resist and annoy our troops; and to thwart my designed operations
 " To capture and make present spoil of the fortified city of Priam.
 " Already nine years have elapsed as the seasons by Jove are appointed,
 " Our ships all left to decay and the canvas and cordage to moulder :
 " And think of our wives and our children forsaken and vainly expecting
 " Our long-protracted return ; unhappily we in the meantime
 " Shamefully fail to achieve what we purposely came to accomplish.
 " But come, without further delay let us now prepare for departure,
 " Home to return if we may, in our swift-sailing ships re-embarking ; 140
 " For we cannot the capture achieve of the fortified city of Priam."

This he said ; and the listening crowd by his plausible speech were persuaded,
 Unaware of his deeper design and unconscious of what he intended.

The aggregate numbers moved on like the waves of the wide-rolling ocean,
 When the east and the south winds in conflict the Icarian billows disturbing
 Lash and impel them amain, and the rain is in torrents descending.

And as when a gale from the west o'er a field of ripe corn far extending
 Impetuously bears down the blades that incessantly wave in disorder,
 So the aggregate numbers moved on, and with uproar and clamour proceeded
 To the ships as they went o'er the sands that in clouds uprose from the trampling
 Incessant, around and above them ; and loudly they called to each other 151
 The ships to equip and make ready and launch them at once on the ocean.

The ropes they uncoiled and arranged, and the props from the ships then
 removing,

Again as the work proceeded aloud they shouted and clamoured.

Away then the Greeks would have gone, against fate if it possibly could be,
But Juno perceived what was doing, and thus she appealed to Minerva: —

“ O brave and invincible daughter of Jove the supreme and almighty,
“ Is it thus with precipitate flight in their swift-sailing ships re-embarking
“ The Greeks shall again return home o’er the barren intractable ocean?
“ Shall Priam exult in his pride and the Trojans persist in retaining 160
“ The Argive Helen among them whose rape was the cause of the quarrel,
“ And for whom on the hostile plain so many brave Greeks have been slaughtered?
“ But go, for it brooks not delay, to the brass-accoutred Achæans;
“ Oppose their ignoble retreat and by earnest and kindly entreaty
“ Prevent and dissuade them from flight and from launching their ships on the
ocean.”

She said, and was promptly obeyed by the blue-eyed goddess Minerva;
At the word her departure she took from the snow-covered heights of Olympus
Descending, and presently came to the swift-sailing ships of the Achæans;
There she Ulysses beheld, for his wisdom distinguished and prudence,
As he stood by his own black ship; but as yet there was no preparation 170
To launch it, for deep-felt sorrow his heart and his mind had invaded;
To him then as near she approached thus spoke the blue-eyed Minerva: —

“ God-like son of Læertes, for wisdom renowned and for prudence,
“ Is it thus to your homes to return with precipitate flight ye are hastening,
“ In your swift-sailing ships to embark on the barren intractable ocean,
“ That Priam in pride may exult and the Trojans persist in retaining
“ The Argive Helen among them, for whom in their valour contending
“ On the hostile plains here of Troy so many brave Greeks have been slaughtered?
“ But go, for it brooks not delay, to exhort and detain the Achæans;
“ Oppose their ignoble retreat, and with earnest and kindly entreaty 180

“ Prevent and dissuade them from flight and from launching their ships on the ocean.”

This she said ; and the voice of the goddess was instantly known to Ulysses ; To run as he hastened he threw off his mantle, and this by the herald Eurybates then was picked up, who from Ithaca came to attend him ; But he going straight to Atrides the wide-ruling King Agamemnon, Received from his hand the sceptre, the incorruptible emblem Of majesty ; this he upheld, and the brass-accountred Achæans Stopped and detained in his course and the kings and chiefs of the people, And thus with encouraging words and with earnest entreaty exhorted :—

“ Brave-hearted warriors like you it becomes not by fear to be vanquished, 190
“ Return with all speed, and the camp neither you nor let others abandon ;
“ The design of Atrides you know not, nor what in his mind is intended,
“ Your courage to try and to prove, and hereafter the coward to punish :
“ Of all that in council he said you are uninformed and unconscious ;
“ Beware that you do not provoke him the sons of Achaia to punish :
“ The wrath of a king when provoked is a terrible foe to encounter ;
“ From heaven derived is his honour, and Jove above all is his guardian.”

But when some plebeian accosting of those who still shouted and clamoured, Him with the sceptre he struck and thus he reprovèd and upbraided :—

“ Unmannerly slave, stand back, and learn to give place to your betters ; 200
“ Cease from your clamour and noise, unwarlike and helpless pretender ;
“ Not a varlet among you distinguished, or known in the field or in council :
“ Absurd and unbearable is it for all to pretend to be rulers ;
“ But popular rule is still worse ; let one chief alone have dominion,
“ One king supreme in command, and by Saturnine Jove so invested
“ With the laws and the regal sceptre, that all their allegiance may tender.”

Imperially thus in his course he proceeded ; but they to the council
To hasten returned with the crowds from the ships and the tents as they gathered,
Clamouring withal and with noise ; as when the tempestuous ocean
Rolls its huge waves to the beach that resounds with the surge and the billows. 210

But they to the council who came in expectant silence were waiting ;
Thersites alone among these continued to bluster and clamour ;
Proficient in taunts and derision to him foul words were familiar,
But not such as decency claims with superiors and kings in communion ;
He the coarse jest would prefer and to ridicule chiefly the Argives.
No varlet more worthless than he upon Ilion's shores had descended ;
In person he hideously squinted, was lame of one foot, and high-shouldered,
His narrow chest hid by his shoulders ; the shape of his head acute-angled
And pointed, and this was half bald with the lank hair scantily sprinkled ;
Full of hate he was hostile to all, but above all he hated Achilles ; 220
Much too Ulysses he hated, but specially now Agamemnon
Blamed with his shrill harsh voice ; for he knew that the Greeks were offended
At the thought that the King Agamemnon their courage had doubted and tempted ;
And thus with his scurrilous tongue Agamemnon he loudly upbraided : —

“ Atrides, what now do you want, what complaint have you now to exhibit ?
“ Your tents are with riches well stored, and of all the most beautiful captives
“ The choice you have had by precedence as first in command of the Grecians ;
“ Such prize has to you been allowed when a city or fortress we captured ;
“ Is it still for more gold that you crave, from the treasures of Ilion expected,
“ To be brought by some Trojan chief in exchange for his son as a ransom, 230
“ Whom I or some other brave Greek shall have gallantly conquered and captured ?
“ Or is it more maidens you covet, in wanton embraces to revel,
“ To sensual pleasures addicted ? Unseemly it is and unfitting

“ For you who command all the Greeks to expose them to toils and to dangers.

“ O women, not men of Achaia, so faint-hearted are ye, Achæans,

“ Home let us go in our ships, and here let us leave him, his booty

“ In Troy to obtain and digest ; that so he may learn from experience

“ How greatly our valour he needs, and whether or not we assist him.

“ The brave-hearted warrior Achilles far braver than him and more valiant

“ He insults and dishonours withal, laying violent hands on his captive ; 240

“ Achilles resents not the wrong, but his indignation suppresses,

“ Or this were indeed, Atrides, your last act of insult and outrage.”

 This he said, Agamemnon reviling, the ruler and chief of the people.

Next from his seat rose Ulysses, and sternly he looked and with anger,

Thersites in scorn surveying, and thus to rebuke him he hastened : —

 “ Thersites, wrangler loquacious and prompt with intemperate language,

“ Forbear your superiors to blame, nor level at kings your revilings ;

“ Of all the confederate Greeks that on Ilion’s shore have descended

“ Not a varlet more worthless than you do we find in the ranks of the army ;

“ The more unbecoming from you those impertinent taunts and reproaches, 250

“ Your vituperation of kings and your urgent demand for returning.

“ What indeed may hereafter occur, and whether for good or for evil

“ The proposal was made for returning, is yet unexplained and uncertain ;

“ But wherefore Atrides blame, the shepherd and king of the people ?

“ Why taunt and reproach him for gifts which others, the brave-hearted Grecians,

“ Have largely conferred to his honour ? but you confer nothing but slander.

“ But this I now say, and declare that it shall without fail be accomplished,

“ If ever again I shall hear your offensive and scandalous ranting,

“ This head from its shoulders shall part and myself be no longer Ulysses,

“ Nor again my son Telemaque ever shall hail the return of his father, 260

“ If I do not immediately seize you and forcibly strip off your garments,
 “ Your cloak and your tunic besides, and all that your carcase envelope ;
 “ And then with hard blows and with stripes to the ships will I send you for
 shelter,

“ Thus with indignity driven a recreant slave from the council.”

He said ; and with sceptre upraised to his back and shoulders applied it.
 Thersites, writhing with pain, and tears from his haggard eyes falling,
 And blood from the hunch on his back as it swelled with incarnadine tumours,
 By the golden sceptre inflicted, trembling and terrified slunk back
 To his seat, and his tears wiped off, looking dolefully savage and groaning.
 But this the spectators around with more pleasure than pity regarded, 270
 And thus in the crowd to his neighbour did some one express his opinion :—

“ Ye Gods ! what a change for the better is here by Ulysses effected,
 “ First in the council to guide as in war to conduct us with honour ;
 “ Now above all the Achæans his merit he proves in reducing
 “ By just and severe correction that turbulent ranter to silence,
 “ Nor will he again soon venture the like exhibition to offer,
 “ His hate to proclaim against kings by invective and scurrilous speeches.”

It was thus in the crowd they remarked ; but Ulysses, the wise and courageous,
 Stood forth with the sceptre in hand ; and beside him the blue-eyed Minerva,
 In form of a herald appearing, the people to silence commanded, 280
 That now both the highest and lowest of all the confederate Grecians
 All their attention should give, at the council at present assisting ;
 And thus with his prudent discourse did he then proceed to address them :—

“ Atrides, the Greeks ill disposed, and your royal standard deserting,
 “ Alone and neglected would leave you, to all living mortals a scandal ;
 “ Not so when from Argos they came their allegiance and duty they promised,

“ But fail to perform ; not Troy any longer their aim is to conquer,
“ And then with the rich spoil laden to bring off its treasures and captives,
“ Causing the fatherless orphans and widows bereft of their husbands
“ Lamentations to mingle together and sigh for returning. 290
“ Grievous indeed to endure is the hardship of such a bereavement ;
“ For who if but absent a month from his home and connubial consort
“ Feels not a sorrow at heart when exposed to the winds and the tempest ?
“ Away he is borne in the ship o’er the waves of the wide-flowing ocean.
“ But we to the ninth year are come of this tedious and painful bereavement,
“ Nor can we in reason complain if the Greeks now long for returning,
“ Mindful of wives and of children ; but otherwise is it and far worse
“ Home to return ineffectual of all that we came to accomplish.
“ But courage, my friends, and remain till the progress of time shall demonstrate
“ What Calchas the prophet predicted, the prophecy true or fallacious ; 300
“ For this do we surely remember, and all the prediction can witness,
“ Whom the Fates yet spare for a while in their mortal career to continue.
“ At the time when at Aulis arrived the confederate bands of the Grecians,
“ War against Priam to wage, and woes to inflict on the Trojans,
“ Altars we built for the gods on the marginal bank of a fountain,
“ And victims upon them we offered with incense of savory odours.
“ In the shade of a beautiful plane-tree that overshadowed the water ;
“ A prodigy then we beheld ; from the ground near the altar upstarted
“ A terrible serpent, so fierce, from Olympian Jove came the monster ;
“ Blood-stained and black were his scales ; to the plane-tree he suddenly darted,
“ Where aloft in the uppermost branches and under the foliage nestling 311
“ A mother-bird nurtured her young, and eight young callows she counted,
“ The birds with the mother-bird counted were nine altogether in number :

“ With its ravenous jaws the eight callows he instantly crushed and devoured ;
 “ The mother-bird fluttered around them, in visible anguish and terror
 “ Near hovering ; her by the wing as he caught he voraciously swallowed :
 “ But wonderful then was the sequel ; for soon as the terrible serpent
 “ The ill-fated birds had devoured, to a stone it was changed at the instant,
 “ Inanimate, bloodless, and cold ; of the power of Jove who had sent it
 “ Most miraculous proof ; we beheld, and were filled with amazement. 320
 “ Our sacrifice made to the gods was so soon by the prodigy followed.
 “ But Calchas in augury skilled thus explained the divine admonition : —
 “ ‘ What fear ye, and why so astounded, ye comely-haired sons of Achaia ?
 “ ‘ All-powerful Jove from above sends the token which here we have witnessed,
 “ ‘ Late sent and of late execution, but glorious the end when accomplished :
 “ ‘ As the birds by the serpent devoured, at first the young brood of the callows,
 “ ‘ The mother-bird then in like manner, the ninth of the number he swallowed,
 “ ‘ So many the years of your toil in the war against Troy and the Trojans,
 “ ‘ In the tenth year at last to succeed and to capture the fortified city.’
 “ So Calchas explained and predicted, and all this is now in fulfilment. 330
 “ But come, brave companions and warriors, no more let us hear of returning
 “ Till the capture and prize we have made of the fortified city of Priam.”

This he said ; and the Greeks all shouted, and far as the black ships were
 stationed

Roars of applause were repeated by all the loud-shouting Achæans,
 Praising withal and extolling the noble and godlike Ulysses.

But then spoke the aged Nestor the most respected of all men :—

“ Heavens ! how absurdly you talk, and more like children untutored
 “ Than warriors by discipline formed, and trained and accustomed to warfare ;
 “ Where now are all your professions and formal vows and engagements ?
 “ To vanish forsooth as the smoke were they made, and your deliberations 340

“ And vows with libations confirmed and right-hand pledges of fealty :
“ In vain for expedients we seek in prolonged and endless discussion,
“ And the time to no purpose consume in contention of words and in parley.
“ You, Atrides, as first in command and as heretofore chief of the army,
“ Summon at once all the Grecians to instantly muster for battle ;
“ But those leave to starve as they may, the one or two Greeks as it happens,
“ Who a separate counsel devise (but effect it they certainly will not)
“ To Argos again to return ere yet the result of the token
“ Sent by all-powerful Jove we have seen, whether true or fallacious ;
“ For I say that all-powerful Jove was propitious and showed his approval 350
“ On the day that in swift-sailing ships upon this expedition embarking,
“ The Greeks with destruction to Troy brought wars and death to the Trojans ;
“ For Jove to the right then thundered, a signal and prosperous omen.
“ Let none then of all the brave Greeks entertain the idea of returning
“ Till the widows and maidens of Troy shall have been in the capture included,
“ In revenge for the rape and abduction of Helen and all its disasters.
“ But if any one cowardly-minded should still persist in returning,
“ In his own black ship let him go, and his braver companions deserting
“ The death that he shuns in the field shall o’ertake him ingloriously elsewhere.
“ But you, Atrides, take counsel, to me among others attending ; 360
“ For that which I now advise, you will find to be highly expedient :
“ Let the men into tribes be divided, each tribe with its separate leader,
“ In communication together, that tribe may to tribe be assistant ;
“ If this you command to be done and are duly obeyed, Agamemnon,
“ With certainty then you will know who in discipline fails and in duty,
“ And who merits praise for his valour, for all in divisions will combat ;
“ And so will it plainly appear whether Troy’s protracted resistance
“ Is by the Gods ordained or results from assailants unskilful.”

He said; and thus spoke in reply the wide-ruling King Agamemnon:—

- “ Of a truth in debate as in age, you, Nestor, excel the Achæans; 370
“ Had I but ten other such, O ye Gods, Jove, Pallas, Apollo!
“ In council to guide and advise, in the number of all the Achæans,
“ To the ground then would speedily fall the fortified city of Priam,
“ Its walls and defences o’erthrown, and to spoil and to rapine delivered.
“ But me to my present misfortune all-powerful Jove has afflicted,
“ In the midst of my progress in arms, with contention and strife in the council:
“ So lately when I and Achilles about a young damsel disputing
“ Were both to much wrath provoked, myself was the first then offended;
“ Could we but now meet as friends and in arms associate together,
“ Not long would the Trojans survive it, nor have from defeat any respite. 380
“ But now to your daily repast and prepare as it needs for the conflict;
“ His shield let each warrior adjust, and his spear and his sword let him sharpen;
“ And specially look to the horses and see to their grooming and feeding;
“ The strong-built cars bring forth and provide each needful equipment,
“ That so the whole day you may give to belligerent cares and employment;
“ No pause after this shall there be, not an hour of cessation or respite,
“ Save but at night, which comes with fatigue and exhaustion to mortals.
“ The sweat shall each breastplate bathe as it drips from each breast in the
conflict;
“ The arm sink down with the shield, and the hand with the spear become languid;
“ With toil shall the horse drag the car, so jaded and blown with exertion: 390
“ But the dastard whome’er I shall find from the heat of the battle retreating,
“ Who loiters that day in the ships, or skulks at a distance from danger,
“ No escape or reprieve shall he have from the dogs and the vultures for
carnage.”

He said; and the Argives around with a shout and with clamour applauded;

As the waves on the beach descend, by the south wind driven and the tempest
Against some prominent rock the tumultuous flood overpeering
Through all the storms that assail it; and loud roars the beach with the billows.

But they to the tents and the ships dispersing, made preparation
With fires seen everywhere smoking for midday's repast and regaling;
And each to his favourite god their vows and prayers they rendered, 400
For aid in the perilous fight, and from violent death for protection.
Then was a full-grown ox, by command of the King Agamemnon,
Brought for a propitiation to Saturnine Jove to be offered;
For this were the elders convoked, and the principal chiefs of the Achæans:
Foremost of these was Nestor, Idomeneus also, and Ajax,
The one and the other so named, and likewise the brave son of Tydeus,
The sixth was the noble Ulysses, renowned for his wisdom in council;
Of his own free will among these came the brave-hearted King Menelæus,
For he knew what his brother intended from consultation together;
These as they all stood round, the barley-cakes duly presented, 410
And thus with solemnity prayed the wide-ruling King Agamemnon:—

“ O Jove, everlasting and glorious, omnipotent ruler of thunder,
“ Let not the sun go down, nor the darkness return of the nightfall,
“ Till we to the ground shall have razed and laid waste the palace of Priam
“ In flames, and with ravaging fire burnt down the gates of the city.
“ My revenge then on Hector I'll take, and strip off his armour and tunic,
“ Shorn of the brazen breastplate; and round him shall many a chieftain
“ Fall by the edge of my sword, and the dust they shall bite in their anguish.”

This he said; but with Saturnine Jove was the votive appeal unavailing;
For he their oblations received, but greatly augmented their troubles. 420

But they having ended their prayers, and of barley-cakes made an oblation,

Drew backward the head of the ox, and to slaying and skinning proceeded;
Dissected the haunches, and these with layers of fat overspreading,
In duplicate cauls applied, they arranged the fragments upon them;
Next, on the altar they burnt them with billets of wood split and leafless;
Also they held upon spits in the flames to be roasted the entrails.
But soon as the haunches were burnt, having tasted the pieces and entrails,
The joints and the inside parts they collected and spitted and roasted;
And all being carefully dressed, they at once abstracted together.
Thus having ceased from their labour and toil in preparing the banquet, 430
The plenteous repast they partook, nor to this was an appetite wanting.
But soon as with eating and drinking they all were sufficiently sated,
Nestor the Pylian king, the revered for his age, thus addressed them:—

“ Atrides, glorious chief, wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
“ Let the time not inertly be wasted, nor let us defer any longer
“ The work which in hand we have taken, and Jove auspiciously sanctions.
“ Come, let the heralds be called of the brass-accountred Achæans
“ Proclamation to make, and to summon together the people;
“ And we since here we are met, let us go through the ranks of the Achæans
“ Their courage to rouse and confirm, and excite them to ardour for battle.” 440

This he said; and with hearty approval was heard by the King Agamemnon;
At the instant his orders he gave to the summoning criers the heralds,
The proclamation to make, and to summon together the people;
The heralds their office performed, and the people were promptly assembled;
Soon they surrounded Atrides the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
In groups by tribes distinguished; among them was Pallas Minerva
With the shield of the thunderer Jove, the eternal immaculate Ægis;
Its boss with a pure gold fringe of a hundred strings was encompassed,

Each string of a hecatomb's worth ; so complicate, solid, and splendid.
Thus equipt, and divinely resplendent, she rushed thro' the crowd of Achæans, 450
And to arms she cried, inflaming each warrior's breast with excitement,
With ardour in fight to engage, and the foe to encounter in battle.
All now clamoured for war, far dearer to them of a sudden
Than home to return in their ships, their native land to revisit.

As the fire when it outbreaks in flames from a deep-wooded bed of a forest
On some high mountain's brow, with the blaze all the plain is illumined ;
So gleamed as they hurriedly marched from their brazen and glittering armour
The splendure along, and above to the skies through the air it ascended.

They like the feathery tribes, when in aggregate numbers collected,
Long-necked swans, or geese, or cranes, o'er the watery meadows 460
Adjoining some Asian lake, or the stream of the winding Cäyster,
Now aloft to the skies do they soar, now again to the meadows descending,
Alight with a noise, clap their wings, and the meadow resounds with their clamour ;
So from the tents and the ships did the numerous bands of Achæans
To the plain proceed on the banks of the deep-flowing river Scamander ;
And the earth seemed beneath them to groan with the trampling of men and of
horses.

On the flowery banks of Scamander their progress at length they arrested,
In myriads assembled, and countless as leaves on the trees in the summer.

As the flies when in swarms they appear, now on this, now that side collecting
Near to some rural farm, or the home of the shepherd attracted, 470
In spring, at the noontide hour when fresh milk he brings from the pasture ;
So many at war with the Trojans, the comely-haired sons of Achaia
Poured o'er the hostile plain, in their ardour for battle exulting.

And as in a large herd of goats that promiscuously browse on the common,

All to the goatherd are known, and each goat from the other distinguished,
So the chiefs their own people collected; the deepening lines by each leader
Were presently formed in array, and amidst them the King Agamemnon
Godlike appeared and majestic, like thundering Jove in Olympus;
Brave and intrepid as Mars, and in strength not inferior to Neptune.

And as in the lowing herd the one most distinguished among them 480
Is the bull; he alone takes the lead, by the others gregariously followed;
So Agamemnon that day, as he stood by his army surrounded,
Appeared of the warlike chiefs by the favour of Jove the distinguished.

Say now, ye Muses divine, who the domes of Olympus inhabit,
For goddesses are ye and all things perceive and know in your wisdom,
We but informed by report have no such intuitive knowledge,
Who of the Greeks were the leaders and principal chiefs of the army.
I of that numerous host should in vain attempt the recital
If mouths even ten I possessed and the tongues were as many within them,
And withal an infrangible voice, and the heart in my bosom were brazen; 490
Unless the celestial Muses, of Jove the supreme in Olympus
The daughters, the tale recorded how many the warriors at Ilion;
Now of the chiefs I report how named, and the ships they commanded.*

* After the catalogue of the ships and commanders, the narrative is resumed as in the next Canto.

CANTO III.

WHEN into separate tribes the Greeks with their chiefs were divided,
The Trojans their ranks o'er the plain with noise and clamour extended ;
So the cranes with a noise and with clamour, at winter's inclement approaching,
Haply the brumal storms and pitiless showers escaping,
Wing their ærial flight to some kindlier clime o'er the ocean ;
Prompt invasion they menace and wounds and death to the pigmies,
And vantage they have in descending to overpower their victims.
But onward in silence came the Achæans, implacable anger
Breathing, desirous of war and on mutual assistance relying.

So when a mist with a south wind spreads o'er the brow of a mountain, 10
Most unwelcome to shepherds, but grateful to thieves above all things,
When but a stone-throw's length the eye through the haze can discover ;
So on the hostile plain with the dust were the Grecians enveloped,
In hovering clouds as it rose from the trampling of men and of horses.

But soon as the hostile armies in front of each other had halted,
Forth from the Trojan ranks to the van out-stept Alexander,
Godlike in form ; his shoulders with panther's hide were encompassed,
His bow at his back was slung, and his glittering falchion beside him ;
Two long brass-headed javelins he carried, and these as he brandished,
Aloud he called to the Greeks and challenged the bravest to combat. 20

Him when the favoured of Mars, Menelæus at distance had noticed
Alone in advance of the ranks with long strides proudly parading,
Much he rejoiced ; as a lion on some stray victim alighting,
Antlered deer of the forest or wild goat escaped from the mountain,

Ravenous with hunger and thirst, he springs on the prey and devours it,
Reckless of baying dogs and shouts and assaults from the huntsmen;
So rejoiced in his heart Meneläus the proud Alexander perceiving,
Godlike in form; for as prey to his vengeance he saw the delinquent;
And hurriedly down from his car to the ground he leapt with his armour.
Soon as the warrior's form Alexander discovered advancing, 30
Conscious alarm overcame him, of no such encounter desirous;
To avoid it he slowly withdrew and among his companions retreated.
As in some grove or wood if a traveller sees in his pathway
A serpent, with horror he starts, and his weak limbs tremble beneath him,
Backward in haste he retreats, and his face becomes fearfully pallid;
So when the brave son of Atreus while yet at a distance was noticed,
Backward stept Alexander among his companions retreating.

But Hector had seen him retreating, and thus with reproaches upbraided: —
“ Ill-fated Paris, fair-formed, women-mad, unworthy deceiver!
“ Would that you ne'er had been born, or had died afore ever you married! 40
“ Surely it so had been better, and more for all parties expedient,
“ Than shame to incur, and to sink with contempt into public derision.
“ What a sport and a jest it must be to the warlike sons of Achaia
“ To see such a martial form, an ostensible fortress in battle,
“ So seemingly fair to behold, devoid of all spirit and courage.
“ Was it thus in your swift-sailing ship o'er the high seas gallantly steering,
“ Braving the winds and waves, and with chosen companions for escort
“ In the midst of admiring strangers the beautiful Helen you courted,
“ And bore off the prize in triumph, the bride and the sister of warriors? *
“ Sorrow to Priam bringing and woes to Troy and the Trojans, 50

* Castor and Pollux. Vide *infra*, 238.

“ Joy to your foes indeed, but shame to yourself and dishonour.

“ You dared not the coming await of the brave-hearted King Meneläus ;

“ Or presently then had you known who it was you deprived of his consort ;

“ Not the amorous strains of the harp nor the blandishing graces of Venus

“ Your ringlets and beauty had saved in the dust and gore intermingled.

“ Unwarlike the Trojans I deem, or with speedy and just retribution

“ Your deserts you had long since received in a stone jacket clad for your vesture.”

He said ; and to him in reply thus spoke Alexander the godlike : —

“ Hector, for not without cause you reprove and have reason for blaming ;

“ Brave above all is your heart like a well-tempered axe in your bosom, 60

“ Which by the arm of the workman on planks and blocks as directed,

“ Cuts irresistibly through, and the man’s whole strength it enforces ;

“ So bold and intrepid your heart, so invincibly keen is your courage.

“ Me for the gifts more endearing of Venus upbraid not in anger ;

“ Gifts by the gods conferred are in every shape to be valued,

“ Whate’er they in bounty bestow ; nor is it for men to be choosers.

“ But now, if your will it shall be that I presently join in the combat,

“ Range in a circle around all the Trojans and Grecians in order ;

“ And I in the midst will engage with the brave Meneläus in combat ;

“ Both for the beautiful Helen, herself and her treasures contending ; 70

“ He who his rival shall conquer and prove the superior in conflict,

“ His be the glorious prize, with the bride and her treasures rewarded.

“ Thus may the armies assembled in concord join and in treaty,

“ Troy to the Trojans securing ; and they in their own ships returning

“ To Argos for horses renowned, and Achaia for beautiful women.”

He said, and much pleasure it gave and gratification to Hector ;

To the front of the line he hastened, the march of the Trojans arresting ;

His spear by the midst and athwart he upheld, and they instantly halted ;

But him when alone advancing the Greeks with their sharp-pointed arrows
Promptly assailed and with stones, in repulsive and hostile aggression, 80
Aloud then an outcry was heard from the King Agamemnon proceeding : —

“ Warriors, forbear your attack, your attention I claim to a parley ;
“ Hector, I see by that signal, proposes to make some announcement.”

He said ; and from further aggression they instantly ceased and were silent.
Hector then slowly advanced and thus spoke, both armies addressing : —

“ From me now hear this announcement, ye Trojans alike and Achæans,
“ By Alexander preferred, who is mainly the cause of our quarrel ;
“ He invites and exhorts you warriors, Trojans alike and Achæans,
“ The war to suspend, to sheathe swords, and your lances aside to deposit,
“ While he in the midst shall engage with the brave Menelæus in combat 90
“ Singly, for beautiful Helen contending, and all her possessions ;
“ He who his rival shall conquer and prove the superior in conflict,
“ For prize and reward of his valour shall Helen obtain and her treasures ;
“ This the two nations confirming by friendly convention and treaty.”

He said ; and while in suspense all stood expectant and silent,
Anon to the front advanced and thus spoke brave Menelæus : —

“ Me too hear, ye warriors, for I more than others afflicted
“ Have deep-felt grief sustained ; but methinks to a definite ending,
“ Trojans and Greeks, ye may come ; for you too have laboured and suffered
“ In this contention and strife from the wrongs Alexander has done me. 100
“ Who of the twain may be destined in combat to yield to his rival
“ Let perish ; but you with each other a compact make and agreement ;
“ Two young lambs provide ; let a black and a white be selected,
“ These for the Earth and the Sun ; and for Jove let a ram be provided ;
“ Then let Priam come forth and solemnly sanction the treaty,
“ He in his own proper person, his sons are light-minded and faithless ;

“ That none may a truce transgress, with so much solemnity sanctioned ;

“ Always indeed are the young light-minded, unsteady, and thoughtless ;

“ But reverend age more wary the past as the present reviewing,

“ Best when it interposes, a sanction affords and a surety.” 110

He said ; and was heard with applause by the Trojans alike and the Grecians,
Cheered with the hope of release from the toils and dangers of warfare.

Now from the cars they descend, and proceed to unharness the horses,
Hasten to lay down their shields, and their arms on the ground to deposit ;
And small was the space on the plain that divided the opposite armies.

Hector, while this was doing, two heralds despatched to the city,
For the victim-lambs to be brought, and the royal Priam invited ;
Talthybius too in attendance, as wont, on the King Agamemnon,
To the ships was sent for the ram as a victim to Jove to be offered ;
Hastening he went on his errand, the King Agamemnon obeying. 120

Iris to Helen meantime on a message had come from Olympus ;
In figure and form she appeared as the bride of the son of Antenor,
Antenorides called, and his royal domain Helicaon,
Laodicea the bride, of the daughters of Priam the fairest.
Helen she found in the palace, by female companions attended
At the loom, a magnificent web of artistic embroidery weaving ;
A scene it displayed of the war, and the labours and toils of the Trojans
And Greeks, for herself sustained in the contest of martial achievements.
Near to her person approaching thus spoke the swift-footed Iris :—

“ Come, dearest, and see what a new and miraculous intercourse passes 130
“ The warlike Trojans between and the brass-accoutred Achæans,
“ But lately in strife with each other, the woes and afflictions of battle
“ In the plain they incessantly spread, intent on the horrors of warfare ;
“ All now silent appear, and in seeming cessation from combat.

“ Here they recline on their shields, and there they deposit their lances ;
 “ In the midst Alexander is seen, and the favoured of Mars, Meneläus,
 “ Singly with sword and spear for you in encounter engaging ;
 “ He who his rival subdues yourself shall obtain for his consort.”

So saying the goddess awakened the endearments of past recollections,
 Of husband unduly forsaken, of home deserted and children. 140

Helen withdrew from the loom, and her veil and mantle assuming,
 Hastened with grief oppressed, and with tears in her eyes from the chamber,
 Not unattended, for two of her handmaids observed her and followed—
 Æthra, the daughter of Pittheus, and Clymene, comely and large-eyed ;
 And soon at the Scæan gate they arrived as together they hastened.
 There they the aged Priam and Panthus saw, and Thymœtes,
 Lampus and Clitius too, and the offspring of Mars Hiketaon ;
 Also Antenor the brave and Ucalegon, both for their prudence
 Noted the elders among, at the Scæan gate were assembled ;
 From age they abstained from war, but in council sagely together 150
 Debated ; as grasshoppers erst in the fields and meadows in summer
 Near to some tree collected repeat their diminutive chirping ;
 So at the Scæan gate were the elders assembled in converse.
 These when the Spartan Queen they beheld to the tower approaching,
 Thus in their sage discourse familiarly spoke to each other :—

“ No wonder the warlike Trojans and brass-accounted Achæans
 “ At strife for the beautiful Helen so long are in battle contending ;
 “ In sooth a celestial Goddess in figure and form she resembles ;
 “ Yet, though in beauty so matchless, we rather should hail her departure,
 “ Than bear this afflicting scourge ourselves and our children hereafter.” 160

They said ; but thus spoke Priam, the Argive Helen addressing :—
 “ Here to the front, dear child, come sit by the side of your father ;

" So may you see o'er the plain your former husband and kindred ;
 " The blame not to you I impute, to the Gods I ascribe my misfortunes,
 " Who to my sorrow have sent me the direful war of the Achæans ;
 " But now you may tell me the name of that tall man yonder so stately
 " In person, he seems by his stature some brave and distinguished Achæan :
 " Others there certainly may be of larger proportion and taller,
 " But ne'er have these eyes beheld such a dignified form and majestic,
 " Nor e'er so commanding a mien ; the semblance he bears of a monarch." 170

He said ; and to him in reply thus answered the beautiful Helen :—

" Sire, most revered and beloved, and by me with deep veneration,
 " Would that by premature death my career had ended, or ever
 " I followed your son to my shame, home, husband, and brothers deserting,
 " My infant, and much loved daughter, and all my respected companions :
 " But otherwise was it ; with tears I lament it in vain to my sorrow.
 " But now in reply to your question, your present inquiry to answer,
 " The man you observe is Atrides, the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
 " In either and both respects a good king and an eminent warrior,
 " And lately to me a shame-faced, if such there was ever, a brother." 180

She said ; and the aged Priam beheld with pleasure exclaiming :—

" Happy Atrides, born to prosperity, fortunate monarch ;
 " Surely your reign extends o'er a numerous host of Achæans.
 " I, in my earlier days in Phrygia's vine-covered region,
 " Numerous Phrygians have seen with armour equipt, and with horses ;
 " Otreus there and Mygdon the assembled forces commanded,
 " And then were they all encamped on the banks of the deep-flowing Sangar.
 " I with my following band was among the auxiliars counted,
 " At the time that in battle array came the Amazons, manly viragos ;
 " But those were inferior in number compared with this host of Achæans." 190

So saying, inquiry again he resumed, Ulysses observing :—

- “ Tell me of that man yonder, dear child, how named and his office ;
“ Not in appearance so tall by the head as the King Agamemnon,
“ But wider his shoulders methinks, and his chest more ample and broader ;
“ His arms on the ground he has laid, his shining shield and his javelin ;
“ He like the antlered buck overpeers the group of his comrades ;
“ As a full-grown ram he appears in a large flock of sheep in the pastures,
“ Statelier he than the others his fleecy companions surveying.”

To him then the beautiful Helen from Jove descended thus answered :—

- “ The son you behold of Laërtes, the wisely instructed Ulysses ; 200
“ Ithaca’s sea-girt isle is the seat of his royal dominion ;
“ In knowledge of craft and wiles he excels, and is noted for prudence.”

She said ; and Antenor next, as he took up the word, thus addressed her :—

- “ Truly indeed was that said, as I can affirm from experience ;
“ For I too in former days have seen and remember Ulysses
“ On embassy then for you, and with him was king Meneläus ;
“ I too did entertain them as guests with domestic reception,
“ And noted the disposition of both and their prudent opinions.
“ When with our Trojan companions we all assembled together,
“ Standing erect Meneläus was known by the breadth of his shoulders : 210
“ Both being seated alike, the most august was Ulysses ;
“ But when into converse they entered, and each his opinion delivered,
“ Surely indeed Meneläus distinctly and sensibly argued ;
“ Few were his words and much to the point, not in phrases abounding,
“ Nor failing in language, albeit in age he was clearly the younger :
“ But when from his seat had risen the wisely instructed Ulysses,
“ He stood, and with down-cast eyes seemed to fix on the ground his attention ;

" His sceptre not backward he moved nor forward, but firmly retaining
 " Held immovable, like to a novice unskilled in debating ;
 " Some one you might have thought him distracted with anger, or witless : 220
 " But soon as his strong clear voice from the depth of his bosom he uttered,
 " The words fell soft as the fleece of a snow-driven shower in winter,
 " And none you would say could compare or in eloquence vie with Ulysses ;
 " His personal form and appearance one then thought less of regarding."

Again for the third time Priam then made inquiry, of Ajax : —

" Who is that other Achæan, a stout-looking man of high stature?
 " He seems by the head and shoulders above the surrounding Achæans."

To him in reply thus answered the long-robed beautiful Helen : —

" He is the warlike Ajax, the strength esteemed of the Grecians ;
 " Beyond, Idomeneus stands, the god-like king of the Cretans, 230
 " And they whom the king is addressing are Cretan warriors, his subjects ;
 " Oft as a guest received by the favoured of Mars, Menelæus,
 " A visit he made at our court when he came from his Cretan dominions.
 " And now I distinctly can see all the other black-eyed Achæans,
 " And those whom afore I have known can describe by their names and their
 persons ;

" Two yet in vain I seek, and can nowhere find or discover,
 " Castor for horsemanship famous, and Pollux for feats pugilistic,
 " My brothers germain the two, of the same fond mother the children ;
 " Have they not hither come from our native land Lacedæmon ?
 " Or here having joined the host, in the ships do they purposely loiter, 240
 " Loth to unite with the warriors their former companions in battle,
 " Ashamed of the cause and the scandal my present condition attending ?"

This she said ; but they far away in their native land were remaining,
 Nor had from the peaceful shore of fair Lacedæmon departed.

In the town meantime were the heralds the victims for sacrifice bringing,
 The two lambs white and black, and the wine, choice fruit of the vintage,
 In goat-skin vessels contained ; a bright gold chalice moreover
 And gold-ornamented cups were borne by the herald Idæus ;
 And thus to the aged Priam advancing, his speech he delivered :—

“ Arise, O son of Laomedon, specially called and invited 250
 “ Alike by the Trojan chiefs and the brass-accountred Achæans,
 “ To the plain to descend, and a truce with your royal presence to sanction :
 “ There Alexander alone and the King Menelæus for combat
 “ Prepared, with their swords and spears shall fight for a woman contending ;
 “ He who his rival shall conquer, shall bear off the wife and her treasures :
 “ All beside those to a truce have consented, solemnly swearing ;
 “ The Trojans from war shall desist, and the Greeks their departure shall hasten
 “ To Argos for horses famed, and Achaia for beautiful women.”

He said ; and it grieved the old King, but he ordered forthwith the attendants
 The car to prepare ; they obeyed, and the horses were presently harnessed. 260
 Priam mounts to the seat, and the long reins carefully handles ;
 Next Antenor ascends, the royal conductor attending ;
 And straight by the Scæan gate to the plain are driven the horses.

But when to the plain they had come, the Trojans among and Achæans,
 Both from the car to the ground descended, and promptly together
 On foot through the midst of the crowd of the Greeks and Trojans proceeded.
 In haste to the front then advanced the wide-ruling King Agamemnon,
 And with him the noble Ulysses. The heralds their office performing,
 The victims prepared for the altar, the wine poured into the chalice,
 And water they brought for the kings, and their outstretched hands they
 besprinkled. 270

Atrides with cutlass in hand, for this he had drawn from the scabbard,

(Near to the ponderous sword at his side it was always suspended,)
From the heads of the victim-lambs cut the wool, which the heralds attending
Distributed round to the chiefs, to Trojans alike and Achæans ;
Aloud then Atrides prayed with his hands upraised and extended : —

“ O Jove who from Ida reignest, august, omnipotent, glorious ;
“ And thou magnificent Orb, that all things seest and hearest ;
“ Mother Earth, and all floods and rivers, and O ye powers infernal,
“ Who visit dead men for their crimes, and torments prepare for the perjured ;
“ Witnesses are ye, so be it, that this attestation be binding ; 280
“ If Alexander prevail and in combat defeat Menelaus,
“ He for the prize of his valour shall Helen obtain and her treasures,
“ And we in our ships forthwith shall return o’er the wide-flowing ocean.
“ Likewise, if Alexander shall by Menelæus be vanquished,
“ Helen and all her treasures the Trojans at once shall surrender,
“ And compensation shall make to the Argives as duly befitting ;
“ That so may posterity know and commend the just retribution.
“ But if such compensation from Priam or Priam’s descendants
“ Still be unjustly withheld although Alexander be vanquished,
“ To arms will I therefore recur the said compensation reclaiming, 290
“ And here on the hostile field will remain till the end of the contest.”

This having said, with his cutlass the victim-lambs he beheaded,
And left on the ground as they fell the bleeding and quivering victims,
Inanimate now and defunct, for so their existence had ended ;
Next, was the wine outpoured and the cups were filled from the chalice,
A libation to make, and around as they stood they prayed to the Immortals ;
And some one among them exclaimed in the midst of the Achæans and Trojans : —

“ O omnipotent Jove and all ye other Immortals,
“ Whoe’er of this solemn vow shall presume to transgress the injunction,

“ So may their life-blood flow as the wine is outpoured on the pavement, 300

“ Orphan their children left, and their wives allotted to strangers.”

So said they; but no approval from favouring Jove was accorded.

But here Troy’s aged king came forward and thus he addressed them: —

“ Hear me, ye warlike Trojans and brass-accoutred Achæans,

“ Again from the plain I go to the high-seated Ilion returning;

“ For ill could these eyes sustain to behold my own son Alexander

“ In deadly encounter engaged with the favoured of Mars, Menelæus;

“ Jove knows how it shall end, unknown to all but the Immortals,

“ Which of the twain by his death shall here his destiny accomplish.”

He said; and the slaughtered lambs in the car he placed, and ascended 310

To the seat in the front, and in hand the long reins took and adjusted;

Near to the aged King as before Antenor ascended,

And off they drove from the plain to the high-seated Ilion returning.

Hector the brave son of Priam conjointly with noble Ulysses

Measured with equal steps the appointed ground for the combat;

Next, in a brazen helmet the requisite lots they commingled,

The chance to decide who first his spear should hurl at his rival;

Prayers and vows were heard during this suspense from the people,

And thus did some one exclaim in the midst of the Achæans and Trojans: —

“ O Jove who from Ida reignest, glorious, omnipotent father, 320

“ Which of the twain most wrongful this direful war has occasioned,

“ Him in the conflict slain dismiss to the regions of Pluto;

“ With us let the truce be respected and peace restored to the nations.”

So said they; but warlike Hector his eyes meantime he averted,

The helmet shook with the lots, and straight outleapt Alexander’s.

All then formed into ranks and the issue in silence awaited,

Each in his place, with the horses at rest, and aside laid the armour.

Now for the combat prepared by assuming his glittering armour
The god-like prince Alexander, the spouse of the beautiful Helen :
First on his thighs and legs the circling greaves he adjusted 330
Of brass, and these with clasps of shining silver he fastened ;
Next, with a splendid cuirass his well-formed bust he encompassed,
The cuirass was that of his brother Lycaon, but Paris it fitted ;
A baldric he threw o'er his shoulders suspending a glittering falchion
Studded with silver and brass ; and ample his shield was and solid.
His head with a helmet of brass well fitting and crested with horsehair
He covered, and grand was the wave of the spreading plume that adorned it ;
And a long sharp-pointed lance to his hand well adapted he handled.
So too the brave Menelæus assumed for the combat his armour ;
And fearful it was to behold them, and all were impressed with amazement. 340

Each to the front advanced of the line of the Achæans and Trojans,
Fierce was their mien and wrathful ; astonished the while and in silence
All looked out from the ranks, the Trojans alike and Achæans.
Now on the measured ground stood the combatants near to each other,
Shaking their threatening lances with angry and menacing aspect.
The fight Alexander began, and his spear he hurled at his rival ;
Full on the shield uplifted it fell of the warlike Atrides,
But pierced not the brazen orb ; with blunted point it rebounded
Repelled by the ringing shield ; but ere Menelæus retorted,
Poising his threatening lance, these words as in prayer he uttered : 350

“ Give me, great Jove, to punish that lawless and lustful aggressor,
“ The false Alexander, that slain by my vengeful arm he may perish ;
“ So shall men fear hereafter, a warning to all generations,
“ Their host to deceive and repay him with treacherous wrongs for his friendship.”
He said ; and with vigorous arm his long shadowing spear he projected ;

Full on the shield it struck of the godlike man Alexander ;
 Through the bright shield it pierced in the brazen corslet infixing :
 The point of the rapid spear as it glanced alongside of the cuirass
 Down at his flank descended, his tunic absconding and tearing ;
 For aside he had bent at the moment, and thus had the death-blow eluded. 360
 Atreides beheld, and his sword as he drew from the scabbard, advancing
 A ponderous blow discharged on the ringing cone of the helmet,
 But instantly shivered in fragments the sword from his hand to the ground fell.
 Groaning heavily then he exclaimed as if heaven upbraiding :—

“ O father Jove, of the gods there are none so cruel as thou art !

“ Surely indeed had I thought the false Alexander to punish ;

“ But now is the sword from my hand broken short, and the throw of my
 javelin

“ Not less vain has proved and abortive, for this he eluded.”

So saying his rival he seized by the tufted crest of his helmet,
 And dragged him towards the ranks of the brass-accoutred Achæans, 370
 Straining his tender throat with the embroidered collar around it,
 That under his chin was attached to the fastening band of his helmet ;
 And thither in sooth he had drawn him, the glory of victory claiming,
 But Venus, the daughter of Jove, from above had noticed the conflict :
 Unseen she came, and divided the fastening band of the helmet,
 Only the empty helmet the grasp of the victor retaining ;
 This the indignant chief towards the brass-accoutred Achæans
 Flung to the ground as in triumph, and they in their keeping retained it.
 But still on slaughter intent he was hastening again to the combat
 With brass-headed spear ; but Venus, Jove's daughter, the other enveloped 380
 (What cannot gods achieve ?) in a cloud of impervious darkness,
 And so to the distant retreat of his perfumed chamber conveyed him ;

And Helen to call then went; on a tower at the wall of the city
 Her soon the Goddess descried by her Trojan maidens attended.
 Softly approaching she pulled with light hand at the fold of her garment,
 The semblance in form and in speech of the trusty old woman assuming,
 Erst at the loom employed in her former service at Sparta;
 Wool she had carded the finest, and greatly did Helen esteem her;
 And thus spoke the Goddess, in person and speech the old woman resembling:—

“Come, Alexander invites, and awaits your immediate returning; 390
 “There on the well-known bed in the perfumed chamber reclining,
 “Splendid in beauty and vesture; he calls you, and none would imagine
 “From combat he came and from fighting, but rather from gaily preparing
 “To join in some festive dance, or from dancing returned and reposing.”

She said; and in Helen's mind immediate attention excited;
 But soon as the elegant shape of the neck of the Goddess she noticed,
 The bosom divinely fair and the eyes of brilliant attraction
 She knew, and beheld with alarm, and thus to her fears gave expression:—

“Cruel, your pleasure to take in deceit, and persist in betraying:
 “Again must I go at your bidding to another populous city, 400
 “Carried off by some favourite chief to Phrygian land or Mæonian,
 “Whoe'er among men may enjoy your special care and protection?
 “Because Menelæus in combat has Alexander defeated,
 “And claims to my hateful home to reconduct me to Sparta,
 “Therefore is it you come, new wiles and deception devising?
 “Go to him rather yourself, your divinity fitly renouncing,
 “Nor think any more as a Goddess again to return to Olympus;
 “There in his chamber abide, his affliction to share and console him;
 “Haply for wife he may take, or keep you as maid to attend him;
 “But thither will I not go, exposed as I may be to censure, 410

“ His couch and his bed to attend: the women of Troy may hereafter
 “ And will with reproaches upbraid me ; but grief beyond measure I suffer.”
 To her then with angry excitement thus answered celestial Venus : —
 “ Provoke not, rash woman, my anger ; beware lest for ever I leave you,
 “ With hatred hereafter not less than the infinite love I have borne you ;
 “ Lest in my anger I make you the object of hate and aversion
 “ To Grecians and Trojans alike, to your certain and utter destruction.”

This she said ; and greatly was Helen, the Jove-descended, affrighted ;
 Hastening her veil to resume and to cover herself with her mantle,
 Silent she went unattended, the Goddess her footsteps preceding. 420

They at the spacious mansion arriving of prince Alexander,
 Found at their several duties the female domestics attending ;
 Straight to the canopied chamber the peerless beauty ascended ;
 The Goddess of loves and smiles to a seat her attention directing,
 Removed it from where it was standing and placed it before Alexander.
 There sat Helen down the favoured of Jove and the offspring ;
 And backward her eyes averting, her husband thus she upbraided : —

“ Away from the combat you came, but there you should rather have fallen,
 “ Slain by his stronger arm who was erst my legitimate husband ;
 “ Oft have you boasted of valour beyond that of brave Meneläus, 430
 “ In vigour and strength of arm and in martial achievement superior ;
 “ Go and make good your boasting ; the warlike and brave Meneläus
 “ Challenge again to the field ; but stay rather, cease I advise you
 “ From combat, nor more contend with the favoured of Mars, Meneläus,
 “ In perils of war to engage and the fierce encounter of battle
 “ Unskilful, lest by his spear you fall and be slain in the conflict.”

She said ; and Alexander to her replying thus answered : —
 “ Do not, good woman, upbraid me with odious and bitter reproaches ;

" Pallas to-day was averse, and Meneläus has conquered ;
 " Him perhaps I may some other ; the gods have of us the disposal. 440
 " But come let us turn from the past to renewal of love and embraces ;
 " Never more ardent love have I felt in my happiest moments ;
 " Not when from Lacedæmon away with my prize I departed,
 " You not unwilling with force in my ship from Sparta conveying ;
 " Not when in Cranaë's isle in connubial bliss we united,
 " As now with the tender passion my soul is transported and ardent."

So saying, the bed he approached, and the wife not unwillingly followed ;
 There upon sculptured beds they reposed in connubial enjoyment.

Atreides meantime on the plain like some grim lion was stalking
 In search through the Trojan ranks of the god-like man Alexander ; 450
 None it appeared of the Trojans, associate chiefs or companions,
 Could anywhere find Alexander, to show him to brave Meneläus ;
 Nor would they indeed for concealment have screened him if haply discovered ;
 Held in contempt by them all, and worse than death was he hated.
 Presently therefore advancing thus spoke the King Agamemnon :—

" Hear, ye assembled warriors, Trojans, Greeks, and associates,
 " Victory plainly belongs to the favoured of Mars, Meneläus ;
 " Therefore the Argive Helen herself and her treasures together
 " Surrender, and pay moreover the penalty claimed as befitting ;
 " So shall posterity learn and be warned by the just retribution." 460

He said ; and with loud acclaim was applauded by all the Achæans.

END OF CANTO III.

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